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# THE TIMES

No. 65,174

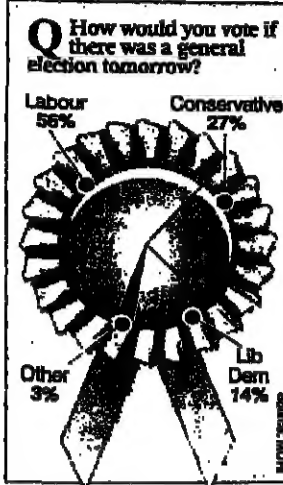
THURSDAY JANUARY 26 1995

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## Tories gain from Clause Four row

### Blair's triumphant poll rise suffers its first setback

By PETER RIDDELL



TONY BLAIR has suffered his first setback in the opinion polls since becoming Labour leader six months ago as Tory support has risen to its highest level since last May. Labour has fallen back from the record figures of last autumn after the recent arguments within the party over policy and the replacement of Clause Four.

The latest MORI poll for *The Times*, taken last weekend, shows that Labour's rating has dropped from 61 per cent to 56 since mid-December, while the Tories have gained five points to 27 per cent. The Liberal Democrats have advanced one percentage point to 14 per cent. Labour leaders take a relaxed

view since the earlier level was seen as unsustainable. The Labour lead over the Tories has narrowed from 39 to 29 points, but this is larger than before last summer and is bigger than when the Tories were in trouble during previous parliaments. There is no sign of any real improvement in the public's view of the Government or of John Major.

According to 38 per cent of respondents, Labour could help its chances of winning the next election by replacing Clause Four with a new statement of party objectives. By contrast, 11 per cent think that

such a change would harm the party's chances. The biggest majority believing that the change would help rather than harm are among the middle classes, men and in southern England. Labour supporters believe by a four to one margin that rewriting Clause Four would help rather than harm the party's electoral prospects.

Mr Blair will launch a nationwide campaign today to mobilise constituency support for the change. The party's national executive agreed yesterday to encourage local parties to hold ballots on the proposal

before the special party conference at the end of April.

The poll suggests that the shift in support away from Labour mainly reflects the end of Mr Blair's "honeymoon", rather than any revival in enthusiasm for the Government. Just one in ten is satisfied with the Government, with well over eight in ten dissatisfied. Tory supporters are dissatisfied by a margin of two to one. These are the second-worst ratings ever.

One in five is satisfied with Mr Major as Prime Minister, while more than three in five are

dissatisfied. Tory supporters are narrowly more satisfied than dissatisfied. Senior Tories will be relieved that their party's rating is at last rising. An attempt to produce an agreed government line on Europe will begin this morning when the Cabinet holds a preliminary discussion on the prospects for next year's inter-governmental conference on the future of the European Union.

The drop in Labour's rating has been matched by a slight fall in Mr Blair's personal rating. The number satisfied with him has dropped from 49 to 46 per cent, while the

proportion dissatisfied has risen from 18 to 24 per cent.

There has also been an adverse movement in Paddy Ashdown's rating as Liberal Democrat leader, with the number satisfied down from 40 to 36 per cent, and the proportion dissatisfied up from 29 to 33 per cent.

MORI interviewed 1,845 adults at 150 constituency sampling points across Britain. Interviews were conducted face-to-face on January 20 to 23. Voting intention figures exclude those who say they would not vote (8 per cent), are undecided (6 per cent) or refuse to name a party (2 per cent).

Commentary, page 9

## Shepherd tightens controls on lenient GCSE grading

By JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR



Shepherd: concerned at evidence of variation

STRICT controls on GCSE exams were announced yesterday after a government inquiry found two examination boards guilty of excessive leniency in grading some of last year's mathematics and science papers.

Gillian Shepherd, the Education Secretary, has ordered a reduction in the number of syllabuses in mathematics, science and English, and rejected advice to ease the limits on coursework. For the first time, standards will have to be checked against previous years and between boards.

Mrs Shepherd ordered an inquiry last autumn, when it emerged that the proportion of B grades in mathematics and science awarded by the University of London Examination and Assessment Council and the Southern Examining Group had increased by more than 10 per cent. Government advisers found fault with the grading in three of the syllabuses under investigation.

The inquiry is the first to confirm uneven standards between GCSE boards. One in ten schools changes examining board each year as teachers shop around for papers they believe will give their pupils the best chance of success.

Mrs Shepherd said she was satisfied that GCSE grade boundaries were "appropriate in most cases", but was con-

cerned at the evidence of variations. "It is important that all necessary action is taken to prevent such a situation occurring again."

In a package of measures devised by the School Curriculum and Assessment Authority (SCAA), she stiffened the code of practice introduced by her predecessor, John Patten, and ordered big reductions in the number of different papers available to schools. As well as limiting each board to one syllabus for English and two for mathematics and science, the new regulations will cut the range of papers set for different ability groups.

They will reduce the number of GCSE syllabuses offered by the English boards from 20 in mathematics and 15 in "double-award" science to

eight for each subject. Examiners from the four boards will compare notes before papers are set and during the marking process. Archive papers will be used to ensure consistency year by year.

The SCAA inquiry cleared the London board of leniency in mathematics, but found that the borderline for B grades in one of its seven science syllabuses was set too low. The Southern group was criticised for both mathematics and science.

George Turnbull, spokesman for the Southern group, said: "This was a technical and complex matter, as can be seen from the fact that Ofsted reached different conclusions for science. The boards are not working in isolation: SCAA officials took part in the process and never requested any changes."

The most controversial element of her announcement was Mrs Shepherd's rejection of advice from Sir Ron Dearing, chairman of the SCAA, to increase the proportion of marks that could be awarded for coursework. She said it would be "premature" to raise the maximum in English from 40 per cent to 50 only a year after limits had been imposed.

Anne Barnes, general secretary of the National Association for the Teaching of English, said that the decision "seems calculated to set off another period of bitter discord". She told Eric Forth, Education Minister, that equal weighting for examinations and coursework would command widespread support among teachers.

David Hart, general secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers, described the decision as a retrograde step. "We should not be sacrificing the interests of our pupils to the political mood of the moment."

But Nigel de Gruchy, general secretary of the National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers, said the rejection represented sound policy. "We have to reverse the view that is being put about that assessment is good and testing is bad. That just isn't true."

### Call for end to teachers' 'progressive orthodoxy'

GOVERNMENT education reforms will fail to raise standards without an assault on the "all-consuming" progressive orthodoxy that grips many state schools, Her Majesty's Chief Inspector warns today (Ben Preston writes).

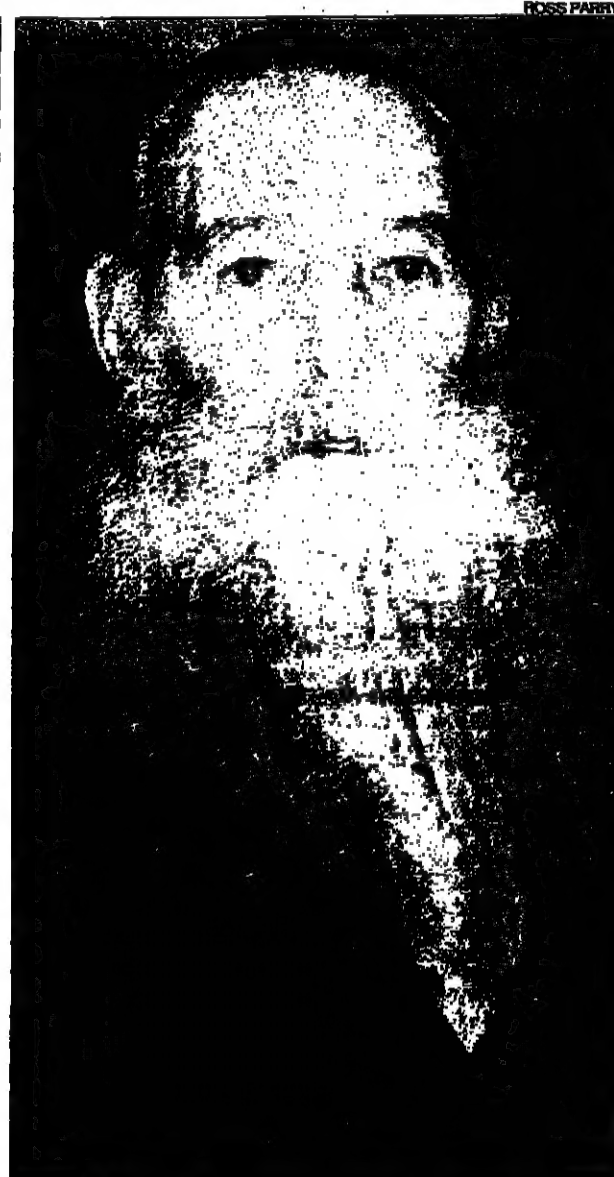
Chris Woodhead writes in *The Times* today that the problem of teachers who hold "woolly, simplistic or other-

wise corrupt" ideas cannot be ducked. He argues that agreement on a period of consolidation in education must not be an excuse for complacency.

The chief inspector's intervention will further strain relations with Gillian Shepherd, who was appointed Education Secretary in July with a brief to restore relations with teachers and proclaim the success of recent reforms.

Mr Woodhead describes the results of last summer's national curriculum tests as "disappointing".

Schools' next steps, page 16



Mr Lyon leaves court after yesterday's verdict

## Old soldier who shot thief is freed

By PAUL WILKINSON

AN OLD soldier who fired a shotgun at an intruder near his allotment was freed yesterday after a jury found him not guilty of attempted murder. Ben Lyon, 73, took up arms after losing patience with the police, who he said did nothing when his allotment was regularly robbed and vandalised.

In March last year, he fired his 50-year-old shotgun at Michael Zivkovic, 29, as he and two accomplices attempted to steal scrap railway lines from a track near the vegetable patch. Zivkovic, described in court as "a petty thief and a rogue", was injured in the face. A jury at Sheffield Crown Court took 60 minutes to find Mr Lyon, from Askrigg, South Yorkshire, not guilty of

attempted murder or wounding with intent. They convicted him of a lesser charge of unlawful wounding. Mr Justice Tucker told him: "You have earned the respect of all who know you," and imposed an 18-month sentence suspended for two years.

The judge said that Mr Lyon had led a blameless life, serving his country and community. "The circumstances of this case are so exceptional, in my opinion, that a sentence of imprisonment can properly be suspended."

Afterwards Mr Lyon said: "All I want to do now is to go home, look after my sister, and feed my pigeons." He added that his allotment had not been raided since the shooting.

## Labour condemns Wakeham post at City bank

By NICHOLAS WOOD AND JONATHAN PRYNN

JOHN MAJOR brushed aside angry protests from Labour yesterday over the appointment of Lord Wakeham, a former Energy Secretary, to the board of a merchant bank that advised the Government on the sale of the electricity industry.

Senior Downing Street officials issued a robust defence of the former minister's right to take the post with Rothschild's worth an estimated £20,000 a year as Labour leaders seized on his move as a further instance of "Tory sleaze".

"It is five years since the electricity industry began to be privatised, and it is three years since Lord Wakeham was Secretary of State for Energy and many months since he was in the Government," one prime ministerial aide said. "In 1995, the fellow is entitled to take a job."

The officials added that Lord Wakeham, who left the Government as Leader of the Lords last summer, had not breached the guidelines covering ministerial conduct. The appointment was condemned as a "naïve move in the current climate" by other merchant banks.

Lord Wakeham yesterday tried to keep out of the political storm. He refused to answer reporters' questions as he left a meeting of the Press Complaints Commission in Fleet Street and dashed to a chauffeur-driven car, looking at the ground and avoiding cameras.

Jeremy Hanley, the Tory Party chairman, condemned the "hypocrisy" of a Labour Party that criticised former Conservative ministers for taking up directorships but turned a blind eye to similar moves by its own elder statesmen.

But the uncompromising stance from Downing Street failed to hide backbench Tory unease over the revival of sleaze allegations, which damaged the Government's standing badly last year. Conservative embarrassment was compounded by the timing of the disclosure, as Lord Nolan's committee of inquiry into

## Warrior queen no longer rules the waves at Britannia

By GEORGE SIVELL, ASSISTANT BUSINESS EDITOR



The old (above), and new



BRITANNIA has become the latest victim of the caring Nineties. The familiar warrior queen will no longer rule the waves at Britannia Building Society because research into the corporate logo and the red, white and blue colours of the Union Flag deemed the symbol of British majesty to be "staid, old-fashioned, aggressive and unapproachable".

She will be replaced with a creation that simply bears the word Britannia, a symbol of modern simplicity and effectiveness meant to typify a progressive company.

The old logo will sink without trace after 19 years gracing the society's products and decorating the Staffordshire-based group's 200 branches.

The society took its name in 1976 from the mythical trident-bearing queen, whose name emanates from Roman southern Britain but has come to personify Great Britain and the British Empire. She is honoured each September at the last night of the Proms in the Royal Albert Hall.

Before adopting Britannia,

the society was known as the Leek and Moorlands Building Society, a name the society wisely realised would not carry them far in the world of financial services.

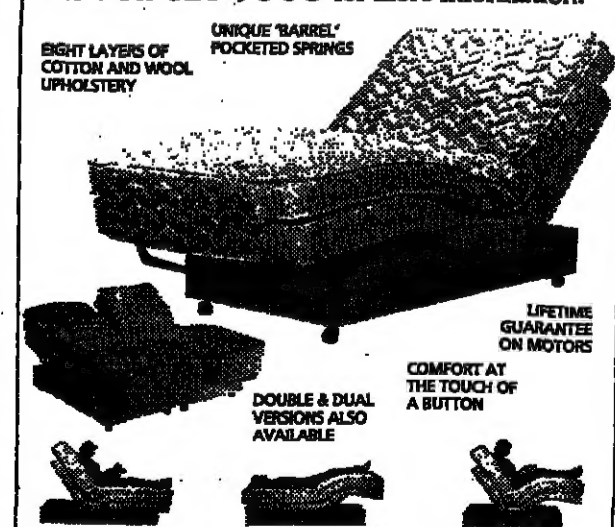
No thought has been given to another name change. But after much research Britannia decided that the logo did not reflect adequately the "modern and distinctive image needed by the country's eighth largest building society".

Britannia said yesterday: "We considered the options of updating or dropping our famous warrior queen figure. Although people associated her with safety and security, these positive features were outweighed by her being seen as old-fashioned, aggressive and unapproachable."

Business News, pages 23-28

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## For a man with everything - phantom shares

By MARTIN WALLER, DEPUTY CITY EDITOR

THOSE executives who feel they have missed their places on the corporate gravy train, or who at least find themselves strap-hanging while the likes of Cedric Brown of British Gas sprawl across the first class carriages, now have a new route to riches.

Coming from the United States, where they really know how to make a vice-president feel wanted, is the latest money spinner for the executive who has everything - the phantom share option. This is a device for ensuring that top businessmen share a company's success by means of share options while sparing them the tedious and

time-consuming business of actually buying and selling the shares.

The latest beneficiary of this trend is Lord Sheppard, 61-year-old head of the transatlantic food and drinks group Grand Metropolitan. His total earnings last year, actual, potential and delayed, add up to £1.7 million.

As part of this sizeable package, Lord Sheppard - one of three directors to benefit in this way - made £95,056 in GrandMet's latest financial year on his share options without a single share certificate being printed. What is more, under the fantastically complicated rules of this particular game, he makes the same amount without fail over each of the next four years and is left with almost a million

more phantom shares which could provide further windfalls.

This profit, from the group's catchily-named Senior Executive Phantom Share Option Scheme (Sepso) for short, meant that Lord Sheppard did not have to rely on his basic salary of £810,000, £60,000 higher since last time but reverting to £750,000 from the start of this month.

In addition the company's straightforward share option scheme, not to be confused with its phantom partner, provided him with instant paper profits of another £415,000 last year. This is the difference between the price at which the options he exercised were issued and the then market price.

Phantom options are notional share

options that never exist in reality but are created to provide a theoretical basis of rewarding and locking in executives. If the real share price rises between their "creation" and when they pay out, executives keep the difference, paid to them over a period of years.

GrandMet says its own 10-year scheme "is designed to encourage senior executives to align their long-term career aspirations with the long-term interests of the group" - "golden hand-cuffs" to stop defections to the opposition.

Lord Sheppard is one of the men credited with the wide-scale restructuring of GrandMet, formerly a hotels group, in recent years.

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## Early birds enjoy the cream of Foulkes



Foulkes creates his own weather system

PUBS are to open on Sunday afternoons — and now a new victory for consumer choice. Parliament is open on Wednesday mornings. For us, no more queuing at 2.30 to drink at the fount of wisdom provided by MPs.

Yesterday was launch day. A waiting world (of three journalists) could move straight from our Weetabix to the assertion by an MP that 95 minus 67 is 17 and that the Foreign Secretary should resign. Both assertions were made before morning coffee. Over biscuits we could watch a shadow-minister, Labour's George Foulkes, make what Jim Lester (C) described as "his normal, colourful, florid and inaccurate" speech, after which Mr Lester made his normal, ponderous and worthy one.

Then we were able to witness an hour and a half of a lawyer who looks like Mr Blobby lecturing a lawyer who looks like Zippy in *Rainbow*, before an audience consisting of one black lawyer and one white lawyer.



### POLITICAL SKETCH

All this, and more: then Questions to the Scottish Secretary (about roadside services on the A9) at 2.30. Truly, Wednesday was a cornucopia of passion, insight and concern. It was too much for the Strangers' Gallery whose 14 occupants at the start had dwindled to seven within 20 minutes, half having no doubt left in shock.

Jim Marshall (Lab), before turning to his speech about the Pergau dam affair, welcomed the morning experiment, recalling the last one, in 1967. That was 17 years ago, he explained. As he spoke I counted (discounting officeholders) three MPs voluntarily present on the Government side. Two had come to make speeches themselves. Nobody knows why the third came, nobody understood why he stayed.

The first of our two Tory orators was Michael Jopling, who made a deeply-felt speech congratulating himself. His suggested reform (morning sessions) had only failed before, he said, because debates were too controversial. This debate was uncontroversial. Marshall had called on the Foreign Secretary to resign and Labour's George Foulkes had described the Pergau affair as "a sickening example of the culpability of this discredited Government" and insinuated that Mrs Thatcher had been trying to enrich her family. His fury at the Government had "the total support of the Labour Party". Bearing a lonely burden, Mike Watson, the only backbencher behind him, glared supportively into space.

A small audience? Yet numbers yesterday were swollen by the allure of two novelties: this was the first morning session and for many the first chance to see George Foulkes exploding before lunch. It is not that Foulkes lacks energy — the volatile Scot has a

bombast quality — it is just that, as his rhythms go, one had always supposed Foulkes's peaked later in the day. After a Scotch Whisky Association reception last year Mr Foulkes unfortunately collapsed in disorder on top of a policeman. If that was Foulkes by night, many had wondered what Foulkes by morning might be.

I can report that he was magnificent. This "tubby whirlwind, creating his own weather system, blew himself into a localised but intense hurricane, bellowed "systemic abuse and corruption!" at the Tories, and so impressed Mike Watson (Lab) that Watson called for morning sittings on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday as well.

What? Foulkes with your Shredded Wheat every day? Embarrass de richesses!

What? Foulkes with your Shredded Wheat every day? Embarrass de richesses!

## Frigate holes U-boat in Channel war game

Parts of a German U-boat were flooded after it was in collision with a Royal Navy frigate during a war game in the Channel yesterday. The U-44 submarine of the German navy was at periscope depth when the accident occurred with the 4,400-ton HMS Battlement off Portland Bill.

The Royal Navy emphasised that no-one had been injured in the incident and that damage was minor: two torpedo tubes and a ballast tank on the 500-ton diesel-electric U-boat were smashed by Battlement's starboard propeller. The submarine's pressure hull was not pierced and it was able to return to Portland naval base.

## Transatlantic smoke ban

A ban on smoking during transatlantic flights came a step closer when an American judge ruled that airlines could negotiate to introduce it on bloc without fear of breaking US anti-trust laws. British Airways, Continental Northwest, TWA, United, USAir and American Airlines had asked for immunity from prosecution if they worked together on the ban. Talks are planned soon to set a date for making the air routes over the North Atlantic smoke-free.

## Vernons to cut 95 jobs

The football pools company Vernons is making nearly one-sixth of its workforce redundant because of a 15 per cent fall in revenue since the launch of the National Lottery. Ninety-five full-time employees at the company's Liverpool offices will lose their jobs at the end of next month. The decision coincided with an announcement by Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, that the Government was lifting the ban on pools firms advertising on television and radio.

## Royal gift to Dresden

The Queen has given an undisclosed donation from her private funds towards the reconstruction of the Franciskirche in Dresden, one of Germany's finest baroque churches, abandoned as a ruin for 50 years since the Allied bombing in 1945. The Foreign Office has also given £50,000 to the British-based Dresden Trust towards the project, which is expected to take nine years and cost £125 million, most of which will come from German sources.

## Editor shot dead

The editor of a Sikh newspaper has been shot dead in London in what appears to have been a professional assassination. Tarsen Singh Pargal, 60, was murdered as he left the offices of *Desik Prakashan* Southall. The weekly newspaper had long campaigned for Punjab's independence from India. A post-mortem examination found that he had been killed by a single gunshot wound to the chest, apparently fired at close range.

## Fire halts Channel train

A fire that halted a Channel Tunnel Eurostar train carrying more than 100 passengers from Brussels to London was caused by a cooling fan failure in the rear section, it was announced yesterday. European Passenger Services, the British arm of the service, is still puzzled as to why lights on board went out after the fire, which started 16 miles out of Brussels on Tuesday night. It said there was never any risk to passengers.

## Ray of hope for patients

A new molecule may be able to prevent the deterioration caused by Parkinson's and motor neuron disease. Studies reported in *Nature* suggest that the molecule, a naturally occurring substance that nurtures brain cells, may be able to slow the loss of the neurons in both diseases. So far the experiments are in animals and much more must be done before the substance, glial cell-line-derived neurotrophic factor (GDNF), could be applied clinically.

## Blakelock widow's joy

The widow of the murdered policeman Keith Blakelock says she is "ecstatic" at the prospect of having another baby. Elizabeth Johnson, 44, left, who had three sons with PC Blakelock, is due to give birth to her fourth son by her new husband David Johnson. She and the 37-year-old decorator married three years ago after she returned to her native Tyneside.

## Flood warnings issued

Flood alerts were issued on rivers in the West Country last night after heavy rainfall halted train services and made driving conditions hazardous. There were also heavy snowfalls at Manchester airport, Leeds and the Pennines. The National Rivers Authority issued a red alert on the upper Taw and an amber alert on the Lower Torridge, both in Devon. In Kent, there were three amber alerts on the Medway. Forecast, page 22

## Strangler jailed for life

A possessive lover was jailed for life by the Old Bailey yesterday for strangling his student girlfriend, Lawrence Hughes, 20, from Finchley Park, north London, had admitted manslaughter but pleaded murdering. Alleen Gibson-Steele, 25, at her home in Harrogate, north London. The dead woman was from one of Ireland's leading sporting families and was the sister-in-law of Peter Cobby, the rugby international.

## Supercomputer on line

The country's first supercomputing centre, able to perform massive calculations in a fraction of a second, was unveiled yesterday. The £30 million Farnborough-based centre will be used primarily for military and civil projects for British Aerospace, GEC-Marconi and the Defence Research Agency. Some of the work will focus on development of advanced technology for a European stealth fighter aircraft invisible to radar.

## Ecologists claim cod stocks in British waters are close to extinction

# Ministers urged to snub EU on fishing

By Nick Nuttall, Environment Correspondent

THE Prime Minister's environment advisers urged Britain yesterday to snub Europe and go it alone on fisheries policy otherwise cod, haddock and many other common species are unlikely to survive another generation.

"While the Common Fisheries Policy exists there are difficulties in putting in place a viable conservation policy. But there is some opportunity for the Government to take unilateral actions," said the panel on sustainable development chaired by Sir Crispin Tickell, the Warden of Green College, Oxford, and former UN ambassador.

The panel, set up last year by John Major to implement one of the Rio Earth summit commitments, has become an unexpected source of support for the nine Euro-sceptic Tory MPs. It claims that the few examples of successful, conservation-minded fisheries in the world stem from national governments, not multi-national organisations.

Sir Crispin's team cited the Falkland Islands, which many conservationists have heralded by many as having a model system for fishing. Instead of setting quotas for a large number of boats, the Falklands government licenses a handful of fishing



Rebel Tory MPs on board the trawler *St Martin* in Lowestoft yesterday after a meeting with local fishermen

## Tory rebels cast their net wide to find support along Suffolk coast

By Michael Hornsby

THE Tory Euro-rebels took their campaign to the streets yesterday, as they sailed to Lowestoft, Suffolk, yesterday and won new recruits to their cause.

At a meeting in the Royal National Deep Sea Fishermen's Mission, overlooking the rain-swept harbour, they called on the Government to make withdrawal from the European Union's common fisheries policy (CFP) a condition of British agreement to any future constitutional changes in Europe. All but one of the eight whipless signatories to last week's rebel man-

ifesto made the journey. John Wilkinson, MP for Ipswich, Northwood, was said to have had a prior engagement.

Also present was Michael Carriss (Great Yarmouth), who is also without the whip and who had not attended previous rebel meetings. He made clear he was there in his own capacity because of his strong views on fishing.

Sir Richard Body (Holland with Boston) said: "The Inter-Governmental Conference in Europe in 1996 will be the last chance to exercise a veto. We must say that we will veto any constitutional change unless

there is an end to the common fisheries policy. Otherwise we will not take the whip back until I hear the Prime Minister say those words."

Christopher Gill (Lidlow) said: "People will say we are being unrealistic. But nothing is impossible. In last week's fisheries debate in the Commons, 25 Tory backbenchers supported an amendment calling for Britain to withdraw from the CFP and we are looking to the Government to take a very robust stand in 1996."

Although few of the rebel MPs have any fishermen in

their constituencies, their presence was welcomed by trawlermen. Hugh Sims, chief executive of the Lowestoft Fish Producers' Organisation, which represents 20 big-beam trawlers, said: "I am happy to climb on their bandwagon. It gives us a political leverage we have never had before."

"It has gone well beyond the question of Spanish access. It is about the whole fisheries policy which is destroying us. Two thirds of the fish in the European Union are found in British waters but our boats only get one third of the catch."

## Ford staff crack new dress code

By Andrew Pierce and James Bone

PINSTRIPE suits and collared ties are officially out for the 33,000 British employees of Ford, even the board of directors. This week it abolished a 90-year dress code: jeans are still discouraged, but blazers, slacks and polo necks are a la mode.

The company had already introduced the dressing-down concept at its American plants. When the experiment was introduced there, absenteeism through sickness fell and productivity increased.

About 60 per cent of the Fortune 500, the largest companies in America, allow their staff to forsake the traditional business suit and "dress down" on Fridays. But the idea cuts little ice with Britain's traditional business community. Cable and Wireless, chaired by the former Tory minister Lord Young of Graffham, said: "We would never even do it on a Friday. We are very smart here."

Mercury abandoned an experiment with dressing down at its Birmingham centre. "They were just too scruffy,"

wearing torn jeans, string vests, and fluorescent pink T-shirts," a spokesman said. "A memo was sent saying that dressing down did not mean coming in to work as if you had been in the garden."

Mary Spillane, a style consultant who has advised British Rail and IBM, was appalled by Ford's decision. "It is an American philosophy that does not belong here."

"Dress-down Friday" has become so popular with the US that it is beginning to spread into the rest of the week. Even the CIA relaxed its dress code to stimulate individual brilliance.

The idea does appear to be catching on among newly privatised British companies. At National Power, even the chairman, Sir Trevor Holdsworth, a past president of the Confederation of British Industry, joins in on Fridays. "But it is only smart casual," a spokesman insisted. "There are no plans to extend it for the rest of the week."

Leading article, page 17

## Fast lane coach ban confirmed

By Tim Jones

COACHES are to be banned from the outside carriageway of three-lane motorways from next year. In a move described as "madness" by the Confederation of Passenger Transport, Dr Brian Mawhinney, the Transport Secretary, said he was acting to make motorways safer.

Dr Mawhinney said he was concerned about the safety implications of allowing coaches to continue using the outside lane when their speed would be restricted to 60mph next year. The move, which will be reviewed after a trial period of two years, comes after backing from the Association of Chief Police Officers, the Automobile Association, the Magistrates' Association and the Parliamentary Advisory Association for Road Safety.

Veronica Palmer, of the Confederation of Passenger Transport, which represents major coach operators, said: "This is motorway madness. Banning coaches from the third lane will turn the overtaking lane into a speedtrap."

## Wakeham post at City bank condemned

Continued from page 1. standards in public life pressed on yesterday with its public interrogation of leading politicians.

Only 24 hours earlier, John MacGregor, the former Transport Secretary, had been questioned closely by the committee over his move to Hill Samuel, the merchant bank advising the Government on the Channel Tunnel rail link.

Gordon Brown, Shadow Chancellor, said it was "unethical and indefensible" for Government ministers to join the boards of companies they helped to privatise. He wrote to Lord Nolan last night, suggesting a quarantine period before former ministers could join firms with which they had dealt while in Government.

Some MPs saw Downing Street's defence of Lord Wakeham, emphasising the lapse of time, as a tacit acceptance that Mr Brown had a point and a hint that the Government is bracing itself for Lord Nolan to recommend new guidelines for ministers' and civil servants' employment when they leave office.

The Cabinet room is becoming a recruiting ground for the boards of privatised companies — now Lord Wakeham's number has come up in the National Lottery of jobs for

the boys," Mr Brown said. Other senior ministers who joined firms involved with privatisation are Lord Tebbit, former Trade Secretary, who is a director of British Telecom; Lord Walker, former Energy Secretary, now a director of British Gas; Sir Norman Fowler, who privatised National Freight and is now on its board; and Lord Young, who regulated Cable & Wireless and is now its chairman.

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## Waco siege inquest

# Twelve of Koresh's children died in fire at compound

BY KATE ALDERSON

A DOZEN children who died in the fire at the Branch Davidian compound in Waco, Texas, were identified by advanced DNA techniques as the sons and daughters of David Koresh, the cult leader.

However, an inquest in Manchester into the deaths of 23 Britons in the fire was told that there was no suggestion that any of the British women had children by him.

Detective Chief Superintendent Albert Yates, of Greater Manchester Police, who has headed an 18-month investigation into the deaths in April 1993, said: "The DNA tests showed that at least 12 children who died in the fire could be connected through DNA to David Koresh as the father."

A former cult member had claimed that Koresh, 33, had fathered at least 15 children by various women in the compound.

Some of the British relatives of the dead, who have attended court since the hearing

began on Monday, left the inquest in tears when film of life inside the compound during the 51-day siege was shown. The 20-minute video showed Koresh, who had a gunshot wound, and 19 children who later died in the fire. Koresh introduced a succession of small children and some of their mothers to the camera in turn. The children referred to the cult leader as "Daddy".

A group of cult members inside the building were asked on film whether they wanted to leave. One said: "No way." Another said: "We are not going anywhere, we are staying right here."

Sam Henry, 38, from Manchester, was in court as his wife and their five adult children, all of whom died, appeared on the film. One of his daughters sent a message to him, telling the camera: "We don't want you to worry. I am not held here as a hostage or anything. If any of us want

to leave we can go out today or whenever we want."

The court also heard details of a mass suicide plan, in which cult members were to blow themselves up with hand grenades or shoot each other. A survivor of the inferno, Marjorie Thomas, from Nottingham, told the court in a filmed interview about Koresh's final plans.

"We would be translated if the enemies shot at us," she said. When asked what that meant she said: "To come out of our flesh and go up towards heaven. We were to be translated by fire, tanks, or be shot."

Miss Thomas said that if they were not shot by the federal authorities, they were to kill themselves using grenades. "If David died we were to end our lives. If they were not able to do it themselves they would ask someone and they would end it for them by using their guns."

It emerged yesterday that relatives of the victims were claiming compensation for negligence and mismanagement by federal officials during the fire and the earlier raid on the Waco compound.

Kirk Lyons, an American lawyer attending the inquest, told the coroner, Leonard Gorodkin, that a total of 23 defendants, including President Clinton and senior officials at the FBI, were named in the action. The lawsuit was filed with a district court in Houston, Texas.

Mr Lyons said: "The people we are going for are the planners, the people who initiated this idiotic and criminal policy. We are not anti-law enforcement, just anti-Gestapo-type law enforcement."

The hearing is expected to conclude tomorrow.



Sam Henry, left, whose family died, and Kirk Lyons, the American lawyer leading compensation claims

## Engineer denies £85,000 airport luggage swindle

BY A STAFF REPORTER

A BUSINESSMAN was accused yesterday of swindling insurance companies out of £85,000 by pretending to lose at least one suitcase every time he travelled abroad.

In two years, Alak Krishnan claimed to have lost 36 suits, 57 pairs of trousers, 86 shirts, ten leather jackets, seven pairs of binoculars, numerous cameras, lap-top computers, camcorders, jewellery, and saris for his former wife.

The 43-year-old engineer made 18 different claims to insurance companies, and used false names and addresses to cover his tracks, Isleworth Crown Court in London was told. When insurance company representatives went to interview him they often found him in sparsely furnished premises, as though nobody was living there.

David Jeremy, for the prosecution, said: "Every time he flies, a suitcase goes missing

and £85,000 is more than most people spend on a house. But that is the loss he says he suffered. If he is an honest traveller, he must be a very unfortunate one indeed."

In ten days in April 1992, Mr Krishnan flew from London to Bombay by Singapore Airlines, from Bombay to Delhi by Air India, and on the same day, from Delhi to Frankfurt by Lufthansa, insuring his baggage with a different company for each flight. On each occasion a suitcase was lost.

Mr Jeremy said Mr Krishnan became greedy after a couple of insurance claims were paid out and began using false names and addresses to confuse the companies. He said: "This defendant saw the opportunity to make money and he systematically set out to make false claims."

Mr Krishnan told insurance companies that when he went to get his baggage from the

carousel, it was missing, damaged, or ripped and the contents missing. Mr Jeremy said: "He did not really suffer any loss or damage to property at all. He covered all the airlines and a wide selection of insurance companies, his practice being to make himself as elusive as possible."

Mr Krishnan's fraud was uncovered when a firm of loss adjusters became suspicious and asked police to investigate. He was arrested at a hotel in Bicester, Oxfordshire, where officers found forged documents in his room, including receipts for goods, which were allegedly used over and over again.

Mr Krishnan, of Bicester, denies nine specimen charges of attempting to obtain cash from insurance companies and one of obtaining £1,450 by deception between July 1991 and July 1993. The trial continues.



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## Woman and elderly sisters foil police again

BY KATHRYN KNIGHT

HAMPSHIRE police are stepping up their three-year search for a female fugitive and her elderly companions after they managed to evade capture again, this time by only half an hour.

Angela Dodge, 52, who is accompanied by her sisters Joan Payne, 74, and Winifred Bristow, 76, is wanted for questioning after a series of alleged frauds against hotels, garages and banks from Inverness to Somerset.

In the latest incident, police were tipped off that the three were staying in a remote farmhouse in Kent. However, detectives arrived to find that the women, accompanied by Mrs Dodge's daughter, Katrina, 12, had driven away only half an hour before. Detective Constable Barry Woodley, of Hampshire police, said police were now even more determined to find the "travelling holiday circus". The group is travelling in a blue Volvo with the Irish number plate 9 AZI.



Kelly Conway: in tears after walking to the woods where her friend was found

## Friend retraces Claire's last steps

THE best friend of murdered schoolgirl Claire Hood yesterday retraced the 15-year-old's last known steps in the hope of finding new leads to her killer. Detectives praised the courage of Kelly, 14, who burst into tears after staging the reconstruction.

Surrounded by TV cameras

crews and photographers, Kelly walked the half-mile route taken by her friend exactly a week ago. More than 40 officers were on the St Melons housing estate, Cardiff, interviewing shoppers at the Tesco supermarket precinct.

A policewoman kept close

to Kelly, whose route took her to the edge of Cath Cobb Woods, where Claire's half-naked body was found last Thursday, nearly 24 hours after she disappeared. Kelly, a fellow pupil at Rummy High School, wore clothes identical to those Claire was wearing.

## Gang snatches record £3m in armed raid

BY A STAFF REPORTER

A LEADING underworld character known as Mr Clean was the chief suspect last night after Ireland's biggest armed raid, in which a gang wielding handguns and rifles grabbed £3 million cash in just ten minutes.

Amid reports that police knew in advance that a major crime was planned, Nora Owen, the Republic's newly appointed Justice Minister, pledged all necessary resources to fight serious crime. The five-strong gang used a four-wheel-drive vehicle to smash down two security fences at the Brink's-Allied company headquarters in the north Dublin suburb of Santry on Tuesday night.

The raiders battered their way through an internal door and took more than 70 red money sacks, each containing £50,000. They escaped across fields with the cash, which was in used notes collected from banks around the country.

Shots were fired as staff grappled with the raiders but no one was hurt. Suspicion is focused on Mr Clean, a well-known Dublin crime figure nicknamed because of his abstemious habits — he is a non-smoker and non-drinker who likes keeping fit and has an ability to avoid detection.

He has avoided being directly linked with police inquiries into previous major crimes. A married man in his 30s with a young family, he

lives in Dublin's inner city and is acknowledged as a meticulous planner of serious crime, with a flair for detail.

He is seen as the successor to Martin Cahill, the so-called general of the Dublin underworld, who was shot dead by the IRA after crossing it before of the ceasefire last year. As a widespread search for the gunmen continued throughout the greater Dublin area, one man was being questioned by detectives who raided a number of locations.

Mrs Owen moved swiftly in response to parliamentary questions to emphasise that there was no suggestion of a terrorist link to the robbery. Dealing with her first serious incident since being appointed a month ago, she told MPs that the security company would have to look at its responsibility in the wake of the raid.

The system for police dealings with companies handling large amounts of cash would be fully reviewed, she added. Her assurance came after confirmation that troops escorting the security van followed strict security procedures and left the scene minutes before the raid.

The gang breached two fences and constructed a makeshift bridge as they moved in. "I am satisfied this will be investigated but cannot give any indication about what might happen," Mrs Owen said.

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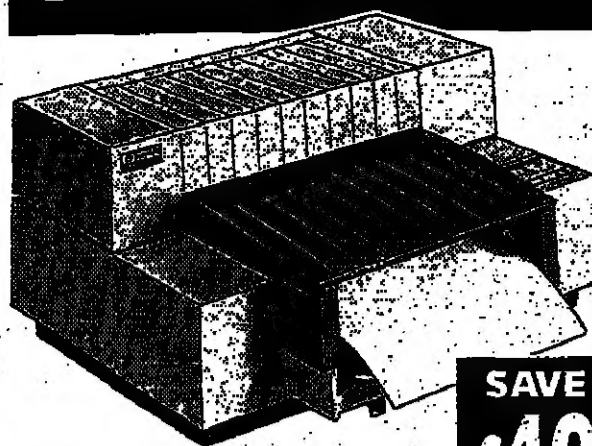
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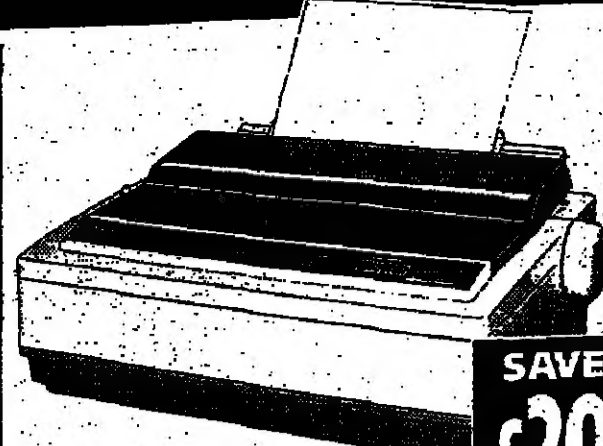
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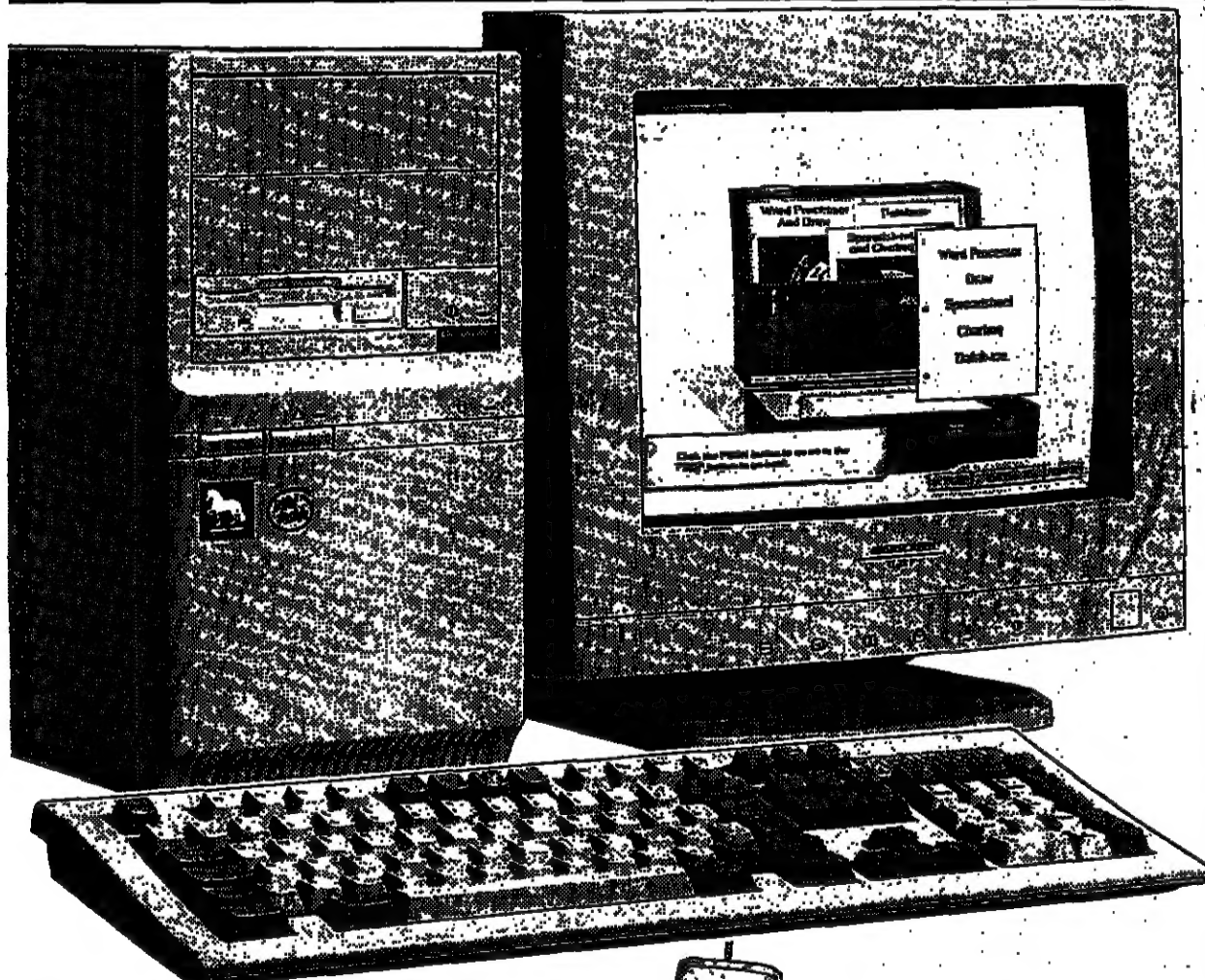
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## Private world of a public clown is revealed in cache of home movies to be screened on television



Peter Sellers stars as the home movie-maker



By royal appointment: Princess Margaret cuts a comedic figure and takes a regal bow before Sellers emerges from behind the screen in a quick-change routine

## Sellers obsessed with need to record his life on film

By ALEXANDRA FREAN  
MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

PREVIOUSLY unseen home movies showing Peter Sellers with Princess Margaret, Sophia Loren and Spike Milligan are to be screened in a BBC documentary next month. Some of the footage has been discovered in a cache of the comic actor's personal effects now in the possession of Iris Frederick, mother of his fourth wife Lynne.

In addition to the films, the

collection includes his ukulele, about 25 fan letters written to Sellers by the Prince of Wales and copies of the actor's letters to the Queen as well as scripts and photographs of the royals. Mrs Frederick, who took possession of the effects after her daughter's death last year, is understood to be considering giving some of them to a collection in Britain, such as the Museum of the Moving Image in London.

The BBC spent 12 years negotiating the rights to 15 hours of the

home movies and last year, shortly before her death, paid Lynne Frederick £60,000 for the right to use extracts in a documentary. Sellers, who always claimed to have no identity outside his screen characters, is seen in the three-part BBC2 *Arena* series as a man obsessed by a need to record his own life on camera.

Peter Lydon, who produced and directed the series, said: "His philosophy seemed to be, 'Unless you photograph it, it doesn't exist.' One

extract shows Sellers in a comedy sketch pretending to be a quick-change artist impersonating Princess Margaret, with whom he was said to be besotted. He ducks behind a screen only to be replaced by Princess Margaret herself, who in turn disappears as he re-emerges.

A less playful side of his nature is revealed by Ann Levy, his first wife, who describes him as a selfish and possessive man who used emotional blackmail to force her to give up her own acting career. The BBC has

ignored a request from Britt Ekland, his second wife, not to use footage of her. The series gives a glimpse behind the scenes of the couple's wedding in 1964.

Born in 1925, Sellers progressed from variety hall comedy in the 1940s to radio stardom with *The Goons* in the 1950s, and films such as *Dr Strangelove* and the *Pink Panther* series in the 1960s and 1970s. His death from a heart attack in 1980, at the age of 54, was mourned by millions.

## Trust price rise forces GPs to cut operations

By JEREMY LAURANCE  
HEALTH SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

FUNDHOLDING GPs have been forced to postpone hospital treatment for non-urgent patients after a local hospital raised its prices by more than 20 per cent. The GP practice in Walton on the Naze, Essex, has told 50 of its patients that they cannot have their operations until after April 1 because it has run out of money.

The decision is a reversal of the usual pattern in which health authorities have imposed delays on patients because of a shortage of cash while GP fundholders have been unaffected, leading to allegations of a two-tier service. Dr Jonathan Geldard, senior partner, said the practice was facing a £250,000 overspend on its budget of £1.6 million. "We have stopped non-urgent in-patient and out-patient treatment but we will probably still end the year with an overspend," he said.

Dr Geldard said the practice had negotiated discounts on its contracts with the Essex Rivers Health Trust last year but the trust had refused to continue with the discounts this year, resulting in increases of up to 27 per cent. "They offered us the discount to get our business and now they are withdrawing it. This shows up one of the weak points in the fundholding scheme. There is no incentive to seek to reduce costs because if you do, your budget is reduced in subsequent years."

Other hospitals were 30 miles away and the practice had a large elderly population, he said. A spokesman for

Essex Rivers Health Trust said the prices had been agreed with the local Family Health Services Authority, which had not allocated to Dr Geldard's practice a budget large enough to cover them.

Andrew Gowan, area manager for the authority, said: "The problem is that the practice pushed patients through the hospital too fast. It should have taken remedial action earlier." He said negotiations over the practice budget were under way.

□ Virginia Bottomley, the Health Secretary, announced a doubling of the number of GPs taking part in an experimental project yesterday in which they will buy all hospital services, including accident and emergency, for their patients.

A total of 50 GPs will be recruited to the "total fundholding" scheme, up from the present 25. Under the scheme GPs buy the full range of hospital and community health services ranging from maternity provision to accident and emergency.

Under the ordinary fundholding scheme they buy only non-urgent hospital treatment for a limited range of conditions accounting for 30 per cent of total hospital services.

Addressing a conference organised by the National Association of Health Authorities and Trusts, Mrs Bottomley said: "The number of fundholders wanting to take on this important responsibility has surpassed the most optimistic projections."

## 'Killer' sponge lurks in cave

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

A CARNIVOROUS sponge has been found in an underwater cave in the Mediterranean. This sinister relative of the bath-time accessory eats small crustaceans, which it catches with its sticky tendrils. The prey cannot escape, though it struggles for several hours, showing that the sponge contains no poisons.

Fresh filaments grow over the prey, completely covering it within a day. Digestion takes several days, after which the surface of the tentril returns to normal.

The sponge was discovered by Dr Jean Vacelet of the Marseilles Oceanology Centre and belongs to a genus, *Asbestopluma*, which normally lives in very deep water. Yet Dr Vacelet and a fellow-worker found it in a cave only

60ft below the surface of the Mediterranean. It is thought to have survived there because cold water trapped in the cave and limited food resources have created conditions similar to those of the deep ocean.

Normal sponges are the most peaceable creatures imaginable, feeding by filtering sea water through complex passages. This one is entirely different and has probably evolved to feed on tiny shrimp and the like for lack of anything else.

Dr Vacelet suggests in *Nature* that many deep-sea members of the same genus may also be carnivores, but they live so far down it is impossible to tell. If so, the Mediterranean cave may provide a unique opportunity to study the creatures alive.

It may also call for a complete redefinition of sponges, conventionally described as sedentary filter feeders which use wing-like cells to drive water through their bodies. Apart from being sedentary, Dr Vacelet remarks, his sponge lacks all these basic sponge attributes. The flesh-eating sponge presents no danger to swimmers or divers. Its preferred meal is a shrimp a millimetre in diameter.

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## Social Trends: 25 years on, we're healthier, wealthier and wiser

## Britons moaning minnies who know their rights

BY LUCY BERRINGTON AND ROBIN BARNWELL

FIFTEEN years of Conservative government have created a nation of complainers in spite of Margaret Thatcher's famous contempt for "moaning minnies" according to *Social Trends 25*. The launch of the Citizen's Charter and a Cones Hotline, combined with increasing awareness of legal rights, has led to a record level of complaints to ombudsmen and advice agencies.

*Social Trends*, which today celebrates its 25th anniversary, is seen as the flagship of the Central Statistical Office. The United Kingdom was the first country to compile such a report, setting an international trend in the monitoring of social development.

Although evidence shows that over the past 20 years

most Britons have become healthier, sometimes wealthier and more likely to own their own homes, higher expectations mean we are also increasingly dissatisfied.

Perceptions are as important as the facts about social conditions, Jenny Church, editor of *Social Trends 25*, said. "The difficulty about tracking data over time is that people's expectations change. The rates of chronic sickness have shown a rise for every age group but the statistics are based on people's perceptions of their health, not on clinical judgment."

British Rail, to fulfil its obligations under the Citizen's Charter, paid nearly £5 million in season ticket discounts and compensation in 1993-94.

while complaints to the Trading Standards Department saw a 9 per cent rise from 710,000 in 1992 to 776,000 in 1993. The number of complaints received by ombudsmen in 10 out of 15 agencies increased between 1991 and 1993, with three showing only a negligible fall. The banking ombudsman received 6,327 complaints in 1993, rising to 10,231 two years later, while the insurance ombudsman's caseload rose from 4,334 to 8,133.

British households are wealthier than ever: real disposable income for average earners has risen from £150 a week in 1971 to £315 in 1992. The extra is spent on clothes, shoes, convenience foods, videos and holidays.

The education gap remains wide despite a rise in government spending of more than 30 per cent in real terms between 1970 and 1993. Two fifths of 21-year-olds reported difficulties with writing and spelling in 1992 but 12 per cent of the population aged 25 to 69 has a degree.

British men work a longer week than men in other European countries but British women work the shortest. The proportion of working men has fallen, especially among over-55s, but that of working women has risen.

Nurses have enjoyed the largest percentage increase in earnings since 1971, more than 120 per cent in real terms; bricklayers and carpenters fared worst with a 28 per cent rise. Since 1971 the percentage of the population living on less than half the average income rose from 11 to 21 per cent, while social security accounted for a third of government expenditure in 1993.

In 1993 40 per cent of people in Britain lived in a household made up of a couple with dependent children and in 1992 Britain had the highest divorce rate in the European Community, almost twice the average. There were three divorces per 1,000 people, up from 2.8 per 1,000 in 1981.

One in three births in 1993 was outside marriage compared with fewer than one in ten in 1971. Merseyside (42 per cent) boasted the highest rate of illegitimate births; Surrey (20 per cent) the lowest. In 1993 television remained the favourite pastime but viewing time fell slightly to 25 hours 41 minutes a week. There were 113 million cinema admissions in 1993, the most since 1978, and Premier League attendances for 1993-94 were the highest since the 1980-81 Division One season.

## Snapshots of national life

■ In mid-1993 the population of the UK was 58.2 million, 4 per cent higher than in 1971. More than 20 per cent were aged 60 or over. The proportion aged 80 or above is expected to double by 2051 to 9 per cent.

■ The average lifespan is increasing by two years every decade. A boy born in 1996 can expect to reach the age of 74, a girl nearly 80.

■ Greater London had a population density of over 4,000 people per square kilometre in 1993, compared to eight in the Highlands of Scotland.

■ We are slowly adopting a healthier diet and progress is being made in meeting health targets. The exceptions are smoking among young people, suicide in young men and obesity.

■ Single men and women, including divorcees, are more likely to drink heavily than married people.

■ More than a fifth of people aged 55 and above had high blood pressure but were receiving no treatment in 1991-92. Men who were married or cohabiting were less likely to suffer hypertension than single men.

■ A fifth of adults in England and Wales took no moderate or vigorous exercise in the four weeks before they were interviewed in 1991-92.

■ More than a fifth of people who reported more than ten sexual partners in their lifetime had attended a clinic for sexually transmitted diseases by 1991.

■ There was one notifiable offence recorded for every ten people in England and Wales in 1993, which fewer than one in five vehicle crimes was solved.

■ In 1993, infants under a year old were the most likely murder victims, while children aged five to 15 were the least likely to be killed.

■ One in ten prisoners was serving a life sentence in 1993. The average time served by "lifers" rose from ten years in 1982 to 14 years in 1993.

■ Chemicals in rivers and seas and the disposal of toxic waste were the environmental issues of greatest concern to adults in 1993. Children were most worried about litter, traffic fumes and deforestation.

■ The area of the UK covered by forest has doubled since the start of the century, to about a tenth.

■ 75 per cent of people travelled to work on public transport in central London in 1991-93 compared with 16 per cent of people in Great Britain as a whole.

■ More than half all cars and a third of motorcycles exceeded the speed limit at a sample of free-flow motorway sites in 1993.



Pascale Lenotte, a Belgian solicitor who sees many advantages to London life

## Britain becomes magnet for continental workers

BY ROBIN BARNWELL

A RECORD number of people from other countries in the European Union have recently migrated to Britain.

An average of 62,500 EU nationals settled in the United Kingdom every year in the five years to 1992, forming the largest group of foreigners working in Britain (359,000 in 1993), according to *Social Trends 1995*. Many were attracted by London's status as a financial centre. Meanwhile an average 58,300 citizens per year left Britain to live elsewhere in the EU.

Pascale Lenotte, a Belgian solicitor, migrated to Britain in 1988 after graduating in law from the Université Libre de Bruxelles. She completed her articles in London and now runs a 200-member society for lawyers from EU countries. She said: "London has many advantages. It is a big financial centre with a lot of business and law transactions. In particular cross-border transactions are further developed than those of other EU member states."

While the most popular overseas holiday destinations for Britons are elsewhere in the EU, Jason Hollands, a 25-year-old stockbroker, feels the British are less interested in going abroad to work. Mr Hollands, on the Euro-sceptic wing of the Conservative Par-



Hollands: Euro-sceptic

ty, has travelled widely on the Continent and in North America. Although he recognises the importance of conducting business with the rest of Europe he is less enthusiastic about living abroad. "A number of my friends have

lived for a while in the States but the same opportunities do not exist in financial services in mainland Europe whereas London, as the largest financial centre, still offers the best chances for promotion. I suppose our record for learning languages is not good as well," he said.

International statistics reveal a diverse set of advantages to British life: Britain has the lowest rate of road deaths per head of population in the European Union and our workforce has the second highest rate of economic activity. On the down side Britain has the second largest prison community per head of the population and the largest number of bathing areas that fall below mandatory standards. The level of welfare benefits is the fifth lowest.

## British Library gives US words of advice

BY DALYA ALDERGE  
ARTS CORRESPONDENT

WE SAY "pavements", they say "sidewalks", we say "cafés", they say "diners". Now the British Library is having its say after securing an agreement to supply British words and phrases to the US Library of Congress language program.

It is influencing how the Library of Congress uses language in its thesaurus-style subject-listing, a computerised system used by academic libraries around the world. The agreement also gives the library access to the program.

Our "railways" and their "railroads" will both be included, as well as uniquely British terms that are being introduced at the British Library's insistence, such as "rave culture", which has come to the fore only on this side of the Atlantic.

Pai Oddy, the British Library's head of cataloguing, said: "The Americans don't understand anything by 'rave culture'. It is a British phenomenon. I don't think they have an equivalent." Quango is next on the list of additions. "This is something that has no meaning whatsoever to them. For us, it is quite specific to our national political set-up," Ms Oddy said.

Since its launch in 1988, the Congress list has amassed 200,000 subject-terms. Every year, about 8,000 new ones are added, reflecting changes in our culture. For example, Aids was included in the list for the first time in 1986. Chernobyl Nuclear Accident in 1987, Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles in 1990, Laser Printers in 1991, and Former Soviet Republics in 1992.

The agreement may help to bridge the gap between two nations which, as George Bernard Shaw said, are separated by the same language. Bill Bryson explored the language links in his book about American-English, listing Americanisms such as hangover and stag party that have been adopted into English. But Dr Samuel Johnson would not approve of such closer links. He once said: "I am willing to love all mankind, except an American."

## NEWS IN BRIEF

## Bridleway to blaze a trail in Pennines

England's first national bridleway, which will cross the Pennines and cater for horse riders and mountain bikers, has been approved by the Government. Devised by the Countryside Commission, the 208-mile route will run from Carlisle to Kirkby Stephen, Cumbria. The National Lottery will be asked for funding.

## Two die in car

Two men in their 20s died in a collision after driving 12 miles on the wrong side of a the A38 dual carriageway near Ashburton, Devon. The driver of the other car was in a critical condition.

## Almonds death

An art student who suffered from an allergy to nuts died after eating trifle containing ground almonds. Craig Todd, 19, from Wiltshire, died at Maudslayi Hospital.

## Cat killer jailed

Jason Coles, 27, of Bedminster, Avon, was jailed for four months by Bristol magistrates for hacking off the leg of a neighbour's pet cat and clubbing it to death after drinking eight pints of cider.

## Stagg gun case

Richard Russell, 25, was remanded in custody by Wandsworth magistrates, charged with possessing a firearm with intent to endanger life outside the home of Colin Stagg.

## Holiday awards

Cumbria took top honours in the England for Excellence Awards. Furness and Cartmel peninsulas, on the edge of the Lake District, were top holiday destinations.

Travel, page 20

## Kurds arrested

French border police arrested 25 people after a group of Kurdish illegal immigrants, hidden in a lorry and a car boot, were discovered at Calais trying to board a ferry for Britain.

## Ending discrimination against disabled people.

The Government has published a package of proposals aimed at ending discrimination against disabled people. These include new rights of employment, access to goods and a National Disability Council. Measures on transport and education are also included.

If you would like to receive a free summary of these proposals, which are being discussed by Parliament, fill in the coupon below (no stamp needed) and send it to: Disability on the Agenda, FREEPOST, Bristol BS38 7DE. Or telephone on 0345 622 633; textphone 0345 622 644.

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## KEENE on CHESS

BY RAYMOND KEENE  
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

## London master

Andrew Kinsman of London has scored his first international master result. This came about in the international tournament in Gausdal in Norway. Two further results of similar calibre will qualify Kinsman for the title of international master.

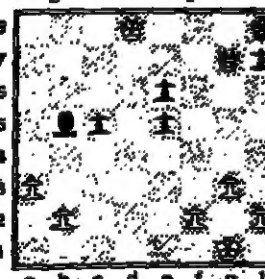
The following game, although it ended in a draw by perpetual check, was typical of Kinsman's enterprising play during the event.

White: Kinsman  
Black: Engqvist  
Gausdal, January 1995

## Trompovsky Attack

- 1 d4 Nf6
- 2 Bg5 g6
- 3 Bb5 Bg7
- 4 d5
- 5 Nc3
- 6 Nc3
- 7 e3 Nf7
- 8 Ng2 Nf6
- 9 Qc2
- 10 Ng3
- 11 Rd1
- 12 Bc2
- 13 dxe6
- 14 cxb5
- 15 Nxb5
- 16 Qc3
- 17 Qc3
- 18 Qc3
- 19 Nf5
- 20 e4
- 21 Nf4
- 22 g3
- 23 f4
- 24 Bc4
- 25 Qc3
- 26 Qc3
- 27 Rf5
- 28 Qc3
- 29 Qc3
- 30 Qc3
- 31 Qc3
- 32 Qc3
- 33 Qc3
- 34 Qc3

## Diagram of final position



## Gausdal results

Leading scores at Gausdal were: Ian Rogers (Australia) 7 points from 9 possible; Nick de Firmian (USA) 6.5; Kinsman and Ward (both England), Engqvist and Kristensen 6.

## Olympiad miniature

The Icelandic grandmaster Arnason won this drastic miniature in the recently concluded Moscow Olympiad.

White: Arnason  
Black: Plachetka  
Moscow Olympiad, 1994

## Sicilian Defence

- 1 e4 c5
- 2 Nf3 Nc6
- 3 d4 cxd4
- 4 Nxd4
- 5 Nc3
- 6 Bg5
- 7 Qc2
- 8 Qc2
- 9 Qc2
- 10 Qc2
- 11 Qc2
- 12 Qc2
- 13 Qc2
- 14 Qc2
- 15 Qc2
- 16 Qc2
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- 29 Qc2
- 30 Qc2
- 31 Qc2
- 32 Qc2
- 33 Qc2
- 34 Qc2

Winning Move, page 44

## SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

Dealer West East-West game, IMPs

♠ K85	♥ 10652	♦ A97	♣ AQ87
♥ K87653	♠ A1076	♦ QJ104	♣ AJ1042
♣ 4	♦ 4	♠ 4	♥ 4

W	N	E	S
Forrester	Pass	Robson	19
Pass	Pass	10	10
Pass	Pass	Dble (1)	10
Pass	Pass	Dble (2)	All pass

Contract: 1♠, Doubled by south. Opening lead: ♠5

## BY ROBERT SHEEHAN

## BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

1. Take-out 2. Penalty, and brave stuff. North-South might have been in a 4-4 fit.

Today's hand is from the recent Macallan Camrose match between England and Wales. Forrester led a diamond and Robson cashed the queen and king. He switched to the queen of hearts, taken by the ace, and the declarer curiously finessed the queen of clubs (he would have done better to play trumps).

When East won the king of clubs he played the ace of diamonds. Declarer ruffed high while West discarded the jack of clubs. Declarer continued with a club, ruffed by West. West played a low heart, ruffed in dummy and overruffed by East. Now East played a club, which the declarer ruffed high. He continued with the jack of hearts, covered by the king, and ruffed in dummy with the king of spades. East overruffed and

played his last club. The declarer discarded, enabling West to ruff for the defence's seventh trick. Are you with me so far?

East still had the nine of spades over the dummy's six, and West had the eight of spades over the declarer's ten-four. West played another heart, ruffed by East, and now in the two-card ending East's forced diamond play promoted West's eight of spades. The defence had made all their six trumps separately, to go with their two diamond tricks and one club trick, thereby limiting the declarer to four tricks.

At trick one South seemed to have five certain tricks — three trumps and two aces. After the queen of hearts at trick three he might have had six tricks. I still can't quite work out what happened to him.

Forrester and Robson are currently playing in the Macallan Pairs at the White House Hotel, Albany Street, NW1 (0171-387 1200). Sessions today at noon and 5.30pm.



'Authority to fire depended upon a person having deliberately driven at another person'



Road to death: (1): a car is waved down by two soldiers in Glen Road, West Belfast; (2): the driver stops but then speeds towards Pte Aindow, who shoots; (3): as Pte Aindow fires more shots, Pte Clegg shoots three times; (4): Pte Clegg fires fourth shot, hitting Karen Reilly; (5): a soldier stamps on Pte Aindow's leg; (6): Miss Reilly is removed from the car. She dies later

## Why Private Clegg was convicted of murder in Northern Ireland

### KEY FIGURES

**Joyriders:** Martin Peake, 17, driver of car, shot dead. Karen Reilly, 18, passenger, shot dead. Markievicz Gorman, passenger, injured. Clegg's patrol: Private Lee Clegg, sentenced to life for murder of Reilly and to four years for attempting to wound Peake. Lost appeal last week to House of Lords to have conviction reduced to manslaughter. Private Barry Aindow, sentenced to seven years for attempted

murder of Peake, also convicted of perverting course of justice. He is now free after having sentence reduced to four years for malicious wounding. Lance Corporal Stephen Boustead, acquitted of attempted murder and attempted wounding of Peake. Lieutenant Andrew Oliver, acquitted of perverting course of justice. RUC Constable, not named for security reasons.

### YELLOW CARD

The Yellow Card that every soldier in Northern Ireland carries is a basic guide to the rules of engagement. Reflecting the advice of the Attorney-General in Northern Ireland, it lays down when a soldier can open fire, although it has no legal force. Soldiers are allowed to use their weapons in self-defence and it is made clear that they do not have to wait until someone has fired a shot. Training before a tour in Ulster is focused on the Yellow Card. When on patrol, however, soldiers soon become aware that the judgment on whether to open fire is in their hands. They have to justify their actions, if necessary in a court of law.

At 9.30pm on Sunday September 30, 1990, an RUC constable arrived for duty at Woodbourne police station in Belfast. The patrol planned for that night had been cancelled and he had to decide where to mount an alternative.

He was aware of the menace of joyriding and even as he pondered the options he heard the screech of tyres from the direction of the tough Republican Lenadoon estate. The incident took place at the station already included complaints about joyriding, so the police officer sought authority, successfully, for a patrol.

The British Army officer delegated to be in charge of the patrol was Lieutenant Andrew Oliver, 24. He and the RUC man decided the route and the places where they would mount vehicle checkpoints (VCPs).

Lt Oliver then briefed the 16 soldiers who were to take part in the patrol but did not mention joyriders. The patrol was to consist of four separate sections, each of four soldiers, known in the Army as

■ Demands are growing for the early release from jail of Lee Clegg after the law lords rejected his appeal against conviction. Michael Evans and Nicholas Watt describe the night a teenage joyrider was murdered



Private Lee Clegg

"bricks". The RUC officer was to accompany Lt Oliver as part of his section.

They set off at about 11.15pm, travelling in two armoured Land Rovers and two armoured personnel car-

riers to a point on Glen Road on the outskirts of West Belfast. The plan was to form one checkpoint with the vehicles and for three of the bricks to continue from there on foot to Mulroy Park and then into the Lenadoon estate.

At 11.30pm the patrol, consisting of members of the 3rd Battalion The Parachute Regiment, was in position along Glen Road. It was a dark night and there was no artificial lighting.

The soldiers were armed with SA80 rifles. Private Lee Clegg, then 21, was among them. At the drop-off point in Glen Road, the vehicles were parked to form a chicane. Lt Oliver and the police officer took up positions in the middle of the road near a bridge.

One of the bricks, with the call sign Victor 11 and led by Corporal Robert Wood, was sent down the road away from the city towards the countryside to form the first checkpoint for cars coming into Belfast. Two other bricks with call signs V12 and V14 went towards the city and Lt Oliver's brick, call sign V10A, which included Pte Clegg, remained at the chicane.

A few minutes later, a car drove through the chicane at high speed. The RUC officer and soldiers from the patrol V10A had to jump clear. No shots were fired.

After another five minutes, the police officer told Lt Oliver he could send the vehicles back to Woodbourne station because by now potential joyriders would have been tipped off about the Army presence. The vehicles left, leaving the 16 soldiers and one RUC man behind to continue the checkpoints along Glen Road.

Pte Clegg, the police officer and the rest of Lt Oliver's brick then moved away from the bridge towards the city, in a "rolling" VCP. In this operation, they move along the road on foot, the police officer stops vehicles approaching the patrol and a soldier stops those coming up behind it.

Cpl Wood and his patrol, call sign V11, moved up to the area close to the bridge. The

two other bricks moved further down the road towards the city and were out of sight of the bridge.

The members of Lt Oliver's V10A group adopted a "staggered" formation with Lance Corporal Stephen Boustead, 29, in the lead on the left-hand side. Lt Oliver behind him with Pte Clegg to his rear. The police officer was in the centre of the road and Private Barry Aindow, 23, was on the right-hand side of the road.

Soon after, a car approached from the country and stopped near the bridge when a soldier signalled with a torch. There was a loud revving noise and the car suddenly took off. Cpl Wood shouted "stop". Martin Peake, the driver of the car, a dark blue Vauxhall Astra, accelerated up the middle of the road towards Lt Oliver's patrol. Cpl Wood shouted to the members of V10A to stop the vehicle.

Pte Aindow, facing a car speeding in the middle of the road towards him, opened

fire, a bullet hitting the front off-side mudguard. He fired more shots at the driver's side as it went passed him. In evidence he said he believed the car would endanger the soldiers further up the road. He also said the Astra had struck him on the leg.

Pte Clegg was said to have been no more than 10ft ahead of Pte Aindow, on the footpath on the opposite side of his colleague. When he saw the Astra accelerating towards Pte Aindow, he placed his weapon on his shoulder and cocked it but did not fire immediately.

When he saw the car almost upon Pte Aindow, and heard the first shots, he, too, opened fire towards the front windscreen, discharging three shots. He said he believed Pte Aindow's life was in danger. Pte Clegg claimed to have fired his fourth and final shot into the front nearside wing as it went past. He ran to Pte Aindow and found him standing in a firing position.

Lt Oliver, the last

soldier in the V10A brick, fired nine shots at the car. Lt Oliver, close to Lt Cpl Boustead, also opened fire because he thought the car was going to hit the 28-year-old NCO. He stopped firing when the car was within a few feet of his position on the footpath.

The police officer had moved out of the way of the approaching car and had thrown himself to the ground when he heard gunfire coming from all around him. He did not hear anyone say they had been hit by the car.

The policeman ran down the road towards the car, which had gone round the bend, but stopped when he heard shouting behind him. He turned round and heard the words, "get down", and "you're it". He saw a soldier crouched down and another soldier run towards him and stamp on his leg. Later Pte Aindow was seen limping.

In his summing-up at the trial, Mr Justice Campbell referred to the "stamping" incident. He said if Pte Aindow had not been struck by the car, the idea of feigning an injury must have been conjured up quickly. He said: "The soldiers were familiar with their instructions on the Yellow Card and they would have known that their authority for opening fire in these circumstances depended upon a person having deliberately driven a vehicle at another person..."

The judge, sitting without a jury, decided that the round recovered from Karen Reilly's body had been fired by Pte Clegg's weapon and that the bullet had entered the vehicle through the rear of the car, passing through the back seat.

There was no scientific evidence to prove that Pte Clegg had fired his first three shots at the front of the car. No bullets entered through the windscreen. The bullet that "contributed significantly" to the death of Karen Reilly was fired from almost directly behind the car, from about 50ft back, and it entered a few inches above the rear bumper. Pte Clegg denied firing this round, which had the appearance of being an aimed shot.

Mr Justice Campbell ruled that Pte Clegg had fired the final shot when all possible danger to his brick had passed and the car was going down the road, although "it must have been fired at the end of a stressful situation".



Karen Reilly

teenager who loved life. She is reluctant to talk now after weeks of publicity about the Clegg case. But at the time of his conviction in 1993, she told the *Belfast Telegraph*: "Karen loved dressing up to go out. She would spend hours in front of the mirror. When she got her pay on Fridays she would have a ball. She made friends easily and had lots of them."

Reilly was a popular pupil at St Colum's Secondary School. After the shooting nearly all of her teachers paid their respects at the family home on the deprived and fiercely republican Twinstown estate, even though she had left the school two years before.

## Victim's family say let her rest in peace

RELATIVES of Karen Reilly clutched her portrait as they recalled the night in September 1990 when the 18-year-old was shot dead by Private Lee Clegg (Nicholas Watt writes). The family, who live in a terraced house on the outskirts of West Belfast, want Clegg to remain behind bars so Karen can "rest in peace". Reilly went out at about 8.30pm on the night she was shot. Four hours later a priest called to say she was dead. Sean Reilly, her father, said: "I started screaming blue murder when I heard what had happened. After about six months the anger turned to frustration."

Karen's mother, Mary, described her as a carefree

## Cabinet to debate chances of release

BY NICHOLAS WOOD AND ARTHUR LEATHERLEY

THE Cabinet is expected to debate the case of Private Lee Clegg today amid intense political and public pressure for his early release.

Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Northern Ireland Secretary, is likely to report to his colleagues on backbench concern and the legal moves the Government has taken to enable a review of his case.

In a fresh development, Michael Howard signalled last night that Clegg's case would prompt a reconsideration of whether to create a new offence to cover killings committed by armed servicemen or police. The Home Secretary told a Commons committee that the creation of a third offence, alongside murder and manslaughter, would be considered as part of the review of murder law which he set up on Tuesday. But he rejected calls for an end to the mandatory life sentence for murder. Yesterday Clegg's



Clegg's mother Wynne in Downing Street yesterday

mother, Wynne Johnson, travelled from her home in Yorkshire to hand in at 10 Downing Street a 40,000-name petition calling for his release. Other petitions signed by tens of thousands of people will also go to No. 10. More than 100 Tory MPs have signed a Commons motion calling for Clegg's release.

Last night senior Conservatives left Sir Patrick in no doubt of their desire to see the 26-year-old soldier freed; ei-

ther through a renewed application to the Court of Appeal in Northern Ireland or through his release on licence.

They were convinced that John Major and his ministers believed the soldier had been unjustly treated and should be freed. The MPs added, however, that the Government was intent on ensuring that any reprieve for Clegg was based on the proper application of the judicial process.

Lady Olga Mairland, secretary of backbench Tory committees covering defence and Northern Ireland, and Elizabeth Peacock, Conservative MP for Batley and Spen, met Sir Patrick at the Commons to press Clegg's case and to be briefed on developments. Lady Olga said before the meeting: "We want to make sure justice is seen to be done in this highly unusual case. But we have to make it abundantly clear that we are not also opening up an avenue that Sinn Féin can use to lift terrorists out of jail."

After a meeting with Sir

Patrick, Marjorie Mowlam, Shadow Northern Ireland Secretary, said she had been assured that "bureaucratic procedures" would not delay the process of considering Clegg's release under licence. "The Clegg case is likely to be discussed at today's meeting at Lancaster House between Sir Patrick and Dick Spring, the Irish Foreign Minister. Dublin is anxious that the soldier's early release could inflame nationalist sentiment in Northern Ireland."

Letters, page 17



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# Crucial Cabinet talks begin on building party unity over Europe

The crucial discussions about the Government's European policy will start today — not in the corridors or lobbies of Westminster but in the Cabinet room. Douglas Hurd circulated a preliminary paper on Tuesday which will be considered by ministers this morning. In line with John Major's desire to ensure that no one is excluded, the full Cabinet, rather than just its overseas and defence policy committee, will be involved in a broad, initial, discussion of the prospects for next year's inter-governmental conference. A small sub-committee under Mr Hurd will then be set up to produce detailed ideas to feed into the study,



or reflection, group of all member states starting this June. Whether the Cabinet can reach, and maintain, an agreed negotiating position will determine whether the party can present at least the facade of unity before the election — and whether its stance is realistic in the talks.

This debate is far more important than what happens to the nine Euro-rebels. As Nicholas Budgen, the shrewdest of them, concedes, "we have been given a status which we never expected and probably

did not deserve. By expelling us, the Government drew attention to us and our views". The current official tactic is friendly, benign neglect, avoiding a further rift but not allowing the rebels to set the terms for the party's debate on Europe. Ministers are reluctant to restore the whip to all, as opposed to four or five, since there is no assurance that some would not immediately vote against the Government again on a European issue.

The main debate is not about presenting demands incompatible with British membership of the European Union. It is about how to make the best of the current relationship. The starting point is

Mr Major's comments in his *Prospect* interview on January 8 that he would not accept "significant constitutional changes". The Euro-sceptics see an opportunity to push "a rolling back" agenda, asserting national rights over community institutions. The pro-Europeans are more ambivalent. While disagreeing with the sceptics' view of Europe as "simply a free-trade area", they note the shift among Tory MPs in a Euro-sceptic direction and claim that it is possible to advance a positive agenda. Mr Hurd wants to avoid the largely reactive, minimalist stance taken by Britain in the Maastricht negotiations.

The odds are that these positions can be reconciled within the Cabinet, at least in the short term. The Euro-sceptics do not want to destabilise the Government. Hence, to the irritation of some backbench Euro-sceptics, they may not challenge the decision to leave open the option of whether Britain joins a single currency in view of Mr Major's more hostile recent remarks about early involvement. Outright rejection of this option now could force the resignation of the pro-Europeans.

But will this approach be sustainable in next year's talks? The events of 1992-93, the narrow French vote, the two referendums in France and

the ruling of the German constitutional court, have made supporters of integration more cautious. There are few calls to extend the competence of the commission into new areas or vastly to increase the powers of the parliament. Rather, the latest enlargement from 12 to 15 raises tricky issues about the size of the commission, the balance of voting on the council of ministers and relations between the council and the parliament. Britain will be pushing for the development of the common foreign policy.

But talk of European opinion moving in the British direction is naive. The Delors vision may have gone with the former commission

president. But Edouard Balladur is no Euro-sceptic and, if elected this spring, can be expected to work closely with Chancellor Kohl. Some of Mr Major's advisers believe that France and Germany will press for a single currency sooner than he claims. Whether Britain opts out, the issue will be at the centre of the political debate. Even some pro-European ministers are reconciled to Britain standing aside. The current Cabinet exercise is intended to avoid the troubles of Maastricht, but its immediate aim is to keep the Cabinet and Tory party together.

PETER RIDDELL

MPs deride 'emperor's new clothes' parade

## Cook angers Left by switching sides on Clause Four

By Jill Sherman, Political Correspondent

ROBIN COOK, one of Labour's most senior leftwingers, was attacked by the Left yesterday after joining Tony Blair's campaign to rewrite Clause Four of the party's constitution.

Mr Cook, the Shadow Foreign Secretary, admitted that he had initially opposed the plan to change Labour's commitment to nationalisation but said that the membership should now unite around a new statement of the party's values.

He was immediately criticised by those who are fighting to keep Clause Four unchanged. MPs accused him of joining the "emperor's new clothes" parade of front-benchers who had been forced to declare support for something that they had initially opposed.

Mr Cook's intervention came as the National Executive Committee agreed to encourage local parties to ballot all their members on changing Clause Four. The party headquarters is to provide ballot papers and labels free to encourage postal ballots where possible. The aim is to allow all members a say rather than letting party activists decide how constituencies

should vote at the April 29 special conference on Clause Four.

The NEC has no powers to instruct constituencies to ballot but the Labour leadership expects most local parties to comply with the executive's strong endorsement. The NEC said in a statement yesterday: "The NEC believes that, to encourage the maximum involvement of party members, membership ballots should be held in every constituency."

In his speech yesterday to the soft-left Labour Co-ordinating Committee, Mr Cook outlined why the Left should embrace a new statement of aims "that is a fuller, richer statement of our ideology". He pointed out that the present clause had no commitment to tackling inequality, unemployment, the centralisation of power or improving the environment.

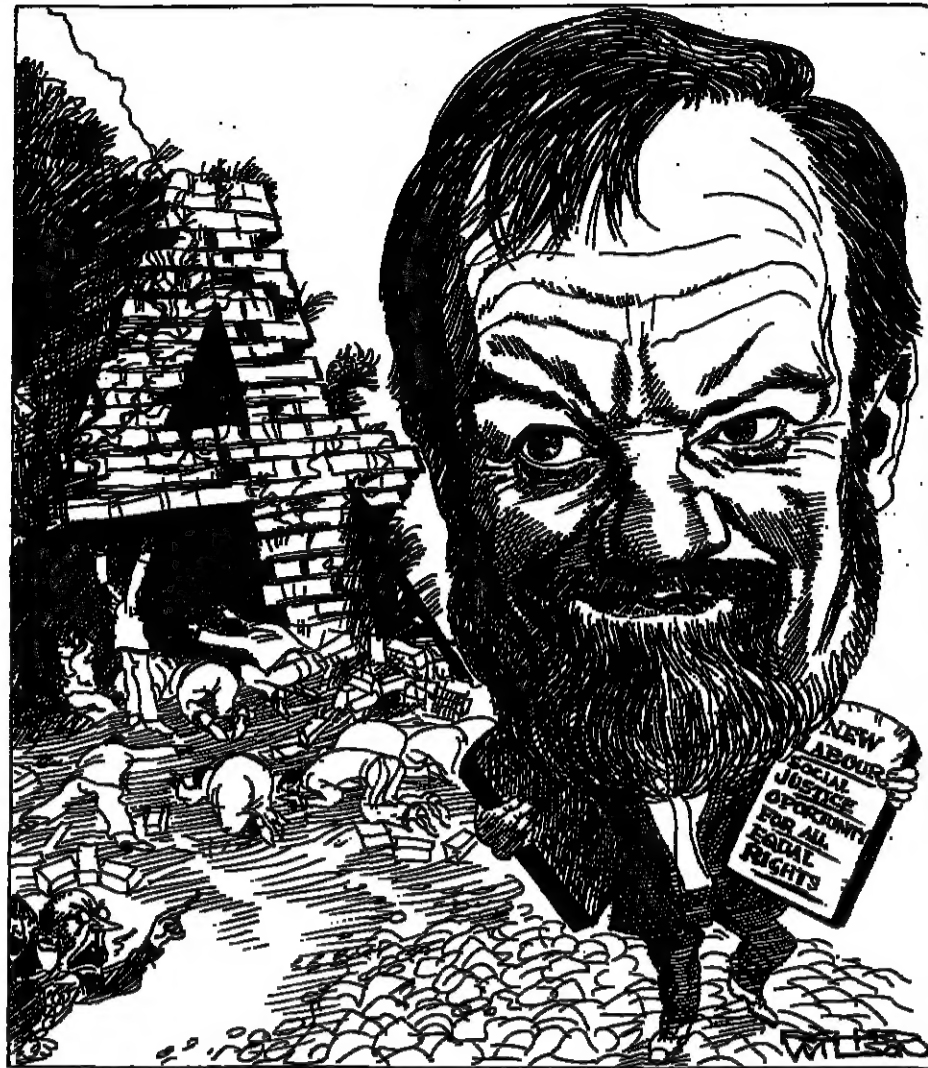
However, he ruled out topping up Clause Four with an extra statement — "a Clause Four plus" — which many on the Left are now demanding. He argued that Clause Four commits a Labour government to nationalise every enterprise in Britain, a move which nobody in the party would now back. But he said

that Labour was committed to a publicly owned Post Office and rail service. Although he felt that the water utilities should be in the public sector, Labour could not make a manifesto commitment to renationalise them. "The objective is not to drop common ownership, but to focus it on the circumstances where it is appropriate."

Public ownership should still be included in Clause Four but should be backed only where it was necessary to meet social needs, he said. "Common ownership is not the sum of Labour's ideology and has never represented the totality of our programme."

Giving the first indication of what the new clause might contain, Mr Cook defined six key objectives for the Labour Party. These included a just society, an opportunity economy, public ownership where necessary to meet social needs, a stable environment, an open democracy and equal rights for all.

Alan Simpson, secretary of the Defend Clause Four campaign, said that the party was now in a "divisive quagmire" and the only way out was to add to the present clause. The Tribune Group, which initially



argued for its own rewritten version of Clause Four, yesterday joined Mr Simpson in calling for Clause Four plus. Trade unionists are also convinced that such a compromise is the only way the party can unite.

Mr Simpson argued that Mr Blair had no mandate for dumping the clause and claimed that the decision to

ballot the full membership amounted to "a stitch up". He said the late decision to encourage ballots had been taken because the leadership feared that it would not be backed by party activists on April 29. "The whole exercise is now in a shambles."

The NEC's decision to approve the holding of ballots was opposed by the two hard-

left MPs on the committee, Dennis Skinner and Diane Abbott. Other MPs also criticised the decision.

David Winnick, MP for Walsall North and a fierce defender of Clause Four, said: "There's now a fear among the people who want to change Clause Four, like in 1959, they're not going to get their way."

## Increase in single parents on benefit begins to slow

By Alice Thomson, Political Reporter

THE upward trend in the number of single mothers claiming benefit has slowed markedly since the Child Support Agency was set up two years ago. The Government said last night.

Peter Lilley, the Social Security Secretary, said that the number of single parents claiming benefit was now increasing by 20,000 a year rather than the expected 80,000, and that the reduction would save the taxpayer more than £1 billion by the end of the century.

Speaking to the backbench Select Committee on Social Security, Mr Lilley said that a variety of factors had caused the slowdown, which was a "welcome relief". In 1994 more than one million single parents collected benefit at a cost of over £6 billion to the Treasury. The agency has collected only £473 million since 1993, by making 400,000 assessments and chasing up 58,000 absent fathers.

Mr Lilley said the reasons behind the drop had not been identified but the CSA had probably deterred many fraudulent claims. "The process of seeking maintenance under the CSA seems to deter quite a lot of people from seeking to claim income support. They suddenly become publicly reconciled to their spouse because they fear that it will be discovered that they have never been properly separated from them."

Mr Lilley also cited the

decline in unemployment and the increase in single mothers taking up jobs. He denied that the CSA had frightened single women genuinely in need from seeking support. He also refused to say whether the change had anything to do with increased morality or absent fathers having decided to pay their former partners for the childcare directly rather than be forced to go through the CSA and have their maintenance assessed for them.

The figures are the first positive result for the beleaguered CSA, which has been dogged by a barrage of criticism since its inception. Only last week the agency was criticised by the Parliamentary Ombudsman. Earlier this week Mr Lilley was forced to bow to intense pressure to announce radical changes to the agency.



Lilley: CSA appears to deter fraud

## Blair launches 'New Labour' roadshow

TONY BLAIR will launch his nationwide "New Labour, New Britain" roadshow today to secure backing for his plan to ditch Clause Four.

At the first of a series of regional question-and-answer sessions tonight in Gateshead, the Labour leader will try to convince the rank and file that he is right. Throughout the tour he will argue that modernising Labour will make it electable and that he sees the rewriting of Clause Four as essential to that task.

This morning he and John Prescott, the deputy leader, will launch the tour at a London press conference. Tonight's meeting, at the Civic Centre in Gates-

head, which is expected to be attended by about 500 people, will be the first test of the strength of support for Mr Blair's plans. Entrance to the meeting, however, is restricted and party activists claim to have had difficulty getting tickets. The organisers say that the meeting has been 100 per cent oversubscribed. Constituency parties were invited to order tickets at the end of last week, but more than 1,000 requests were received.

Mr Blair is expected to get a grilling from some members over why he has decided to throw away the cornerstone of the party's constitution. But the Labour leadership office is confident

enough of his reception to provide access for television cameras and a press pool.

Tomorrow Mr Blair will continue his tour in the North with visits to a comprehensive school in Wingate, Co Durham, and a factory in Leeds, followed by a meeting at Leeds Civic Hall. He will attend two to three regional meetings a week over the next three months in the run-up to the special conference on April 29. Mr Prescott, Robin Cook and Gordon Brown will also help to sell the Labour leader's message through meetings, rallies and factory visits.

## Sinn Fein seeks vote pact with SDLP

By A Staff Reporter

SINN FEIN wants an electoral pact with the SDLP that would mean seven nationalists being elected to the House of Commons at the next general election.

The Boundary Commission published proposals yesterday for the creation of an extra seat — West Tyrone — in the west of Ulster, increasing the Province's representation to 18 MPs. At present the western area returns two MPs, the Ulster Unionist Ken Maginnis in Fermanagh and South Tyrone, and the Rev William McCrea, a Democratic Unionist, in mid-Ulster.

The area has a slight nationalist majority, but the SDLP's past refusal to enter a pact with Sinn Fein has ensured success for the Unionists. But Sinn Fein sees the redrawing of boundaries to create three seats with, on paper, nationalist majorities, as an opportunity in the new political climate to strike a deal. Mitchell McLaughlin, Sinn Fein northern chairman, said: "I would be disappointed if the SDLP were not to review the situation in the light of the present circumstances."

Peter Robinson, deputy leader of the Democratic Unionists, reacted with anger to the proposals, claiming that the commission had bowed to pressure from Dublin "to effect a particular political outcome".

## Preston calls for arbiter to investigate accused MPs

By Michael Dynes



Preston: "baffled" by the system

AN INDEPENDENT arbiter should investigate allegations of financial impropriety against ministers and MPs, a national newspaper executive told Lord Nolan's inquiry into standards of public life yesterday.

The arbiter should have the power to decide whether there was a case to answer and then refer the matter to an investigative tribunal. Peter Preston, Editor in Chief of *The Guardian* and *The Observer*, said: "Mr Preston told the inquiry that he was alarmed to discover during the controversy over who paid a Ritz hotel bill for Jonathan Aitken, the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, that no one was in a position to decide whether the rules of the House of Commons had been breached."

The controversy over who paid the bill was one element in a barrage of allegations about "sleaze" in public life that prompted John Major to set up the Nolan inquiry in October. Mr Preston, who was editor of *The Guardian* at the time, said yesterday that after raising the issue of the bill with Mr Aitken he was told that Sir Robin Butler, the Cabinet Secretary, was "the arbiter of the ministerial rules of procedure". However, Sir Robin insisted: "I am an adviser, not an arbiter."

Mr Preston said that he had been "left totally baffled as to whose responsibility it was to decide". There must be a system in which it was clear

who was responsible for carrying out an investigation in such cases, and the grounds for a decision. "I don't mind who is responsible, as long as it is clear who it is. It should not be Sir Robin," he added. Ann Taylor, Shadow Leader of the House, called for the creation of an "ethics advisory office" which would be responsible for assessing any evidence of financial impropriety and reporting its findings to the Commons. She said there

should be a comprehensive register of MPs' interests outside Parliament, including the amount they were paid, a code of conduct to guide MPs, and an independent authority to investigate any breaches of the rules.

Ms Taylor, who resigned from Westminster Communications, a parliamentary lobbying organisation, after the cash-for-questions affair, said that the register of MPs' interests should be made more comprehensive by listing details of contracts, agreements and payments. She said MPs should not be banned from having outside interests, but they should be prohibited from making any financial gain out of exercising their parliamentary duties.

Sir Geoffrey Johnson-Smith, chairman of the Commons select committee on members' interests, said that he would welcome outside representation on his committee. He had, however, found little evidence that MPs were "deliberately flouting the rules".

### IN PARLIAMENT

**YESTERDAY:** In the Commons, MPs began their first 10am sitting brought about by the Jopling reforms to hear a series of private members' debates, which were followed by Scottish questions, a ten-minute rule Bill on Pensions (Divorce) and the second day of the committee stage of the Finance Bill. In the Lords, two short debates on the Prison Service and accidents at sea were followed by the second reading debate for the Human Rights Bill.

**TODAY:** In the Commons questions to agriculture ministers and the Prime Minister will be followed by a statement from Tony Newton, the Leader of the House, on next week's Commons business. There will also be debates on an Opposition motion on mortgage interest relief for people on income support and a motion for the adjournment on the future of rural England. In the Lords, the Environment Bill is committee and the South Africa Bill will have its second reading.

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## Angry murder trial judge attacks accidental filming of juror

## TV stations saved from Simpson court ban

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN LOS ANGELES

HUMBLE apologies from a team of media lawyers persuaded Judge Lance Ito to allow continued television coverage of the O.J. Simpson murder trial yesterday, after a technical slip-up had prompted a threat to ban live pictures from the courtroom.

The lawyers told the judge that Tuesday's televised glimpse of a juror was a mistake that would not happen again. Defence lawyers had been furious about the prospect of losing the global television audience prosecutors had enjoyed for their opening statements.

Gil Garcetti, the Los Angeles District Attorney, appeared to agree with the defence: "I believe that at least to some extent the criminal justice system is on trial," he told reporters yesterday. "It's not a cliché. I believe there is sufficient doubt in many people's minds as to whether or not the criminal justice system functions... Let the people see

the evidence... They've heard many rumours. Now let's see what the facts are," Mr Garcetti.

Seldom can television have inflated a drama so much simply by its own presence. A stand-in cameraman from the cable network Court TV, operating the pool remote-control camera with an electronic joystick, allowed a side view of a reserve juror seated in front of the main panel to stray into the bottom left-hand corner of his screen for an instant.

The cameraman noticed his mistake, jerked the camera away from the juror and yelled at a colleague to cut the pictures within the seven-second time delay before transmission — but to no avail.

Court TV owned up at once: reporter Kristin Jeannette Myers rushed from the courtroom to the press room and shouted into a microphone "Get me the anchor, get me through to anyone!" But Judge



Judge Ito, who was said to be "beyond furious" over the slip-up by the operator of a remote-control camera

Ito's ire was already provoked. He was "beyond furious", Ms Jeanette Myers said in her televised report. "He was so distraught he couldn't express himself."

The furor is not without its ironies. The judge, who has a lap-top computer on his courtroom desk and has been called a "techno-wizard" because of his fondness for the latest gadgets, is the man who threatened to ban television coverage of the trial last November before consenting

to a six-part interview with CBS. "I have my reputation as a judge to consider," Judge Ito said on Tuesday.

The cameraman who jeopardised the most frenzied media circus in the history of criminal justice did so, Court TV explained, out of inexperience. He was standing in for the network's veteran remote-control operator who, after covering the high-profile William Kennedy Smith and Mendez brothers trials, is suffering from stress. Judge

Ito said he will allow a single, static shot of the courtroom until further physical limitations on the camera can be installed. He said, however, that he was summoning the reserve juror whose face was inadvertently shown and would ask whether this would interfere with her ability to be a fair juror.

The judge said that he was taking the reserve juror into his chambers to show her a videotape of the few seconds during which the camera acci-

dentally broadcast her face on television.

The judge, accepting the Court TV apology, said: "The court has had the benefit of a night's sleep on the issue," noting he had watched the tape eight times. "I find there was no bad faith involved."

Mr Simpson denies murdering Nicole Brown Simpson, his former wife, and Ronald Goldman, her friend, last June.

Janet Daley, page 16

## US wants smaller peace team to take over in Croatia

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

IN AN effort to avert a wider war in the Balkans, the United States is proposing the creation of a smaller United Nations force in Croatia to replace the peacekeeping operation there when it is expelled at the end of March.

American diplomats have briefed the UN secretariat on a plan drawn up by Peter Galbraith, US Ambassador in Zagreb, to cut the number of peacekeepers in the country from the present level of more than 12,000 to 6,000 or 7,000.

The peacekeepers' mission would also be redefined so that they would pull out of the large Serb-populated "UN protected areas" that cover about a third of Croatia's territory. Instead, UN observers would simply monitor the separation of Croat and Serb forces from the Croatian side of the ceasefire line.

The UN secretariat is sceptical about the proposal, which it fears could hand its soldiers another impossible task just as the present force is being ousted for its failure to implement its mandate of restoring Serb-held areas to Croatian government control.

"Most people are very dubious [about] whether the United Nations could effectively sustain a ceasefire with a very light force," one Western European diplomat said.

The "Galbraith plan", as it has been dubbed, is the first attempt by outside powers to

prevent a new outbreak of Serb-Croat fighting if Zagreb makes good its pledge to eject the UN peacekeepers.

Just this week, President Milosevic of Serbia gave a warning — after meeting Lord Owen, the European Union mediator — that the expulsion of UN peacekeepers from Croatia could prompt a "fresh confrontation with unforeseen consequences".

The new plan envisages UN monitors stationed along the Croatian government side of the ceasefire line with the Serbs, something President Tudjman of Croatia will find difficult to accept because the proposed scheme maintains the status quo.

The Croatian Government would be rewarded, however, by being allowed to keep the present headquarters and logistics staff for the United Nations' entire Balkans operation, which brings in significant income.

The so-called "Zagreb Four" — the United States, the UN, the EU and Russia — are pushing a parallel plan for local autonomy for breakaway Croatian Serbs. Under that plan, the Serb-held areas in eastern and western Slavonia would be demilitarised over a period of about three months and then slowly reincorporated into Croatia over the next three to five years. Serb-held Krajina would get extensive local autonomy.

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## Dini wins approval of MPs

Rome: Lamberto Dini's Italian Government was endorsed yesterday by the Chamber of Deputies (Philip Willan writes).

MPs voted by 302 to 39 for the Government in a motion of confidence with 270 abstentions, mostly by supporters of Silvio Berlusconi, the previous Prime Minister. Signor Dini faces another confidence vote in the Senate next Wednesday before being able to assume power, but commentators say that is a formality.

## Bishop held

Lyon: Twenty-three protesters, including a bishop and two priests, were arrested here after entering two abortion clinics and chaining themselves to furniture to prevent operations. (AFP)

## Mob killing

Lisbon: A mob of neighbours attacked a young African man fleeing from a pre-dawn robbery of a shop in the Portuguese town of Carregado and beat him to death. Nobody has been arrested. (AP)

## Nuclear crime

Cologne: Germany detected a record 267 cases of illegal nuclear traffic last year. A government report blames "East European groups with the characteristics of organised crime". (AFP)

## Lang drops out

Paris: Jack Lang, France's former Socialist Culture Minister, has pulled out of the presidential race. M. Lang, popular with young voters, gave his support to party leader Henri Emmanuelli. (AP)

## Britain attacked

Manama: Shaikh Hamad, Crown Prince of Bahrain, has accused Britain of harbouring "terrorists and saboteurs", referring to several Muslim clerics allegedly implicated in recent riots here. (AP)

## Flea posting

Sydney: Australians are being asked to post squashed fleas from their pets to a pharmaceutical firm, which will give 50p an insect to the Animal Protection Society for a flea awareness week. (Reuters)

## Over-the-counter medicines

A new book describes the symptoms and care of common ailments and gives a list of recommended over-the-counter treatments, including a popular range of herbal and homeopathic medicines now available in most chemists. Written by Britain's most popular "radio doctor", all the information is easily accessible, set out in an A-Z of conditions as well as an A-Z of medicines, each with up-to-date brand names, treatments and expert advice on how to use the medications safely and sensibly.

Useful addresses and an important set of guidelines make this an essential book for every home medicine cupboard. Dr Mike Smith's *Handbook of Over-the-Counter Medicines* costs just £3.95 postpaid. To order, send your name, address and book title with payment (cheque or Visa/Access with exp. date) to: Carrell plc, Dept CM2, Aylesford, nr. Colchester, Essex CO7 8AP, allowing up to 14 days for delivery. You may return the book anytime within three months for a full refund if not satisfied.



# Clinton speech bows to Republicans' agenda

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

THE Republican revolution rolled on yesterday, its leaders chortling at how President Clinton had used his annual State of the Union speech on Tuesday night to climb on board.

As the House began debating the single most radical measure in Newt Gingrich's Contract with America — a constitutional amendment mandating a balanced federal budget — Republicans gleefully proclaimed that a chastened President had embraced all their central themes of smaller government, lower taxes, devolution of power to the states and even personal "empowerment".

"The President's ideas sounded pretty Republican," Christine Todd Whitman, New Jersey's Governor, declared in her party's official response to his address. "If he has truly changed his big government agenda we say 'great — join us as we change America'."

Joseph Lieberman, a conservative Democratic senator, enthused: "He's back to the mainstream".

Mr Clinton's speech was great political theatre but lasted 81 minutes — a near record that prompted Mrs Whitman to preface her remarks with a promise that "I am not going to ask for equal time". It contrasted starkly with his 1993 and 1994 addresses, which he used to

promote his giant economic and healthcare reform programmes and his belief that "government must do more".

This time, with the Republicans firmly in charge of Congress, the President was in no position to propose any new legislation, and actually called for diminished federal government.

He congratulated the Republicans on their victory, ruefully joking that he now knew "how some of you must have felt in 1992". He acknowledged that he had "made mistakes, and learned again

and welfare reform on condition that it sought genuinely to help and not to penalise the unemployed. He embraced the Republicans' preference for gradual healthcare reform, admitting that with his own grandiose plan "we bit off more than we could chew".

He joined America's latest crusade against illegal immigrants; he damned Hollywood's "incessant, repetitive, mindless violence"; and called for a national campaign against teenage pregnancy in words that could have been written by Dan Quayle, the

His speech was punctuated by appeals for bipartisanship, but he did lay down some markers. He promised to fight any Republican attempts to cut social security, repeal last year's ban on assault weapons or to end his cherished national service programme. He sought to outflank the Republicans' congressional reformers by challenging all congressmen voluntarily to refuse lobbyists' gifts, and revived his 1992 calls for lobbying and campaign finance reforms to clean up Washington. Foreign affairs barely featured.

Sitting behind the President were Mr Gingrich, the exuberant House Speaker, and Al Gore, the Vice-President. They provided their own commentary on Mr Clinton's speech by rising in turn or together to applaud particular statements.

Leon Panetta, the White House Chief of Staff, had called it the most important speech of Mr Clinton's presidency, and it was a brilliant performance considering how the Republicans' capture of Congress has limited his options. But many Americans have tired of Mr Clinton's attempts to reinvent himself. He was also competing with a formidable rival attraction: the opening day of the O.J. Simpson murder trial.

Leading article, page 17

6 The time has come to put our country first... put aside partisanship and anger and ready America for the 21st century. 9

the importance of humility in all human endeavour. He essentially offered a commentary on the Republican agenda, setting out what he could and could not support and positioning himself as a moderate proponent of change determined to temper some of the Republicans' more extreme proposals.

He argued for "leaner, not meaner, government". He supported tax cuts so long as they did not "explode" the deficit; a balanced budget provided it was not achieved at the cost of economic recovery or by punishing the poor,

former Vice-President. Mr Clinton's equivalent of Contract with America was the "New Covenant", an idea resurrected from his 1992 presidential campaign whereby all Americans assume greater civic responsibility.

He said civil life was suffering because competing groups were clashing. "We have to cut yesterday's government to help solve tomorrow's problems." The time had come to "put our country first... put aside partisanship, pettiness and anger and rise to the occasion of readying America for the 21st century."



President Clinton, watched by Al Gore, talks to Newt Gingrich before his speech

## President fears new Gephardt challenge

BY MARTIN FLETCHER

PRESIDENT Clinton sounded more like a Republican than a Democrat in his State of the Union address, but he did toss a few bones to his party's liberals — and with very good reason. He is desperate to avert a challenge for the Democrats' 1996 presidential nomination.

The Democrat the White House most fears is Richard Gephardt, the House minority leader. The Missouri liberal, who ran for President in 1988, has blatantly asserted his independence since November's election debacle. He has strong union support. At the very least he is positioning himself in case Mr Clinton has to bow out or to fight Al Gore, the Vice-President, for the year 2000 nomination.

Mr Gore, one of the Administration's few success stories, would be the man most Democrat supporters would like to see carrying their party's banner in 1996, but he has ruled out a challenge to the President.

However, Jesse Jackson, the civil rights leader and twice presidential candidate, has said he will run against Mr Clinton, as either a Democrat or independent, if the President moves too far to the Right. Another conceivable left-wing challenger would be Tom Harkin, the Iowa senator who ran in 1992.

Mr Clinton is so weak that Washington is already rife with speculation about which Democrat might take him on, but as he moves sharply to the Right, he is working hard to protect his left flank. Amid all his centrist rhetoric on Tuesday night, Mr Clinton appealed liberals by calling for an increased minimum wage and pledging to oppose cuts in certain cherished social programmes.

Three of the past four Democratic Presidents — John Kennedy being the exception — have faced debilitating internal challenges. Moderate Democrats were profoundly disappointed by Mr Clinton's first two years, and will almost certainly put up a presidential candidate if he does not now toe their line. No sitting President has been denied the nomination since Chester Arthur, in 1884.

## Darling of New Jersey promises second revolution

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON



Whitman: conservative who will keep her word

WHEN Christine Todd Whitman gave her dismissive response to the State of the Union speech by President Clinton, she confirmed her position as the darling of her party and the leading candidate for the vice-presidency in any Republican dream ticket for 1996.

Mrs Todd Whitman has been described variously as the most electable woman in American politics and a standard-bearer of the Right. She rose effortlessly to become Governor of New Jersey and, less than a year later, has gained national stature as a miracle worker prepared to be

fiscally draconian, cutting taxes at every turn, and simultaneously socially liberal, offering a pro-choice platform to counter the more radical members of Congress.

That she was selected to reply, making her the first woman and Governor to have been asked to reply to the President, reflects her influence. Admired by Newt Gingrich, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Bob Dole, the Senate majority leader, Mrs Todd Whitman is seen as a conservative who will keep her word.

She is astute enough not to

deny rumours of her future candidacy but is charmingly unresponsive when asked. "I make a habit of not commenting on such matters." Her colleagues, however, increasingly believe it would be madness not to include her on a ticket for 1996.

Her speech from the State House in Trenton offered a televised joint platform with Mr Clinton and, in suitably vice-presidential tones, was read as if he had not spoken.

It was fitting, she said, that she should speak from the state capital where on Christmas morning in 1776, George Washington had crossed the

## California Speaker holds on to his job

BY TOM RHODES

AGAINST all odds, Willie Brown, veteran Speaker of California's state assembly and one of the most powerful black politicians in the United States, has regained his seat after 15 hours of raucous debate in Sacramento, the state capital.

When the Republicans won a majority in the assembly for the first time in 24 years, it was assumed he would lose the post he had held for a record 14 years. Californian Republicans appear, however, to have underestimated the parliamentary skills and political manoeuvring that have made

the San Francisco Democrat something of a legend. Mr Brown persuaded one Republican to declare himself an independent, then managed to drive an opponent from the chamber before regaining his seat by 40 votes to 39.

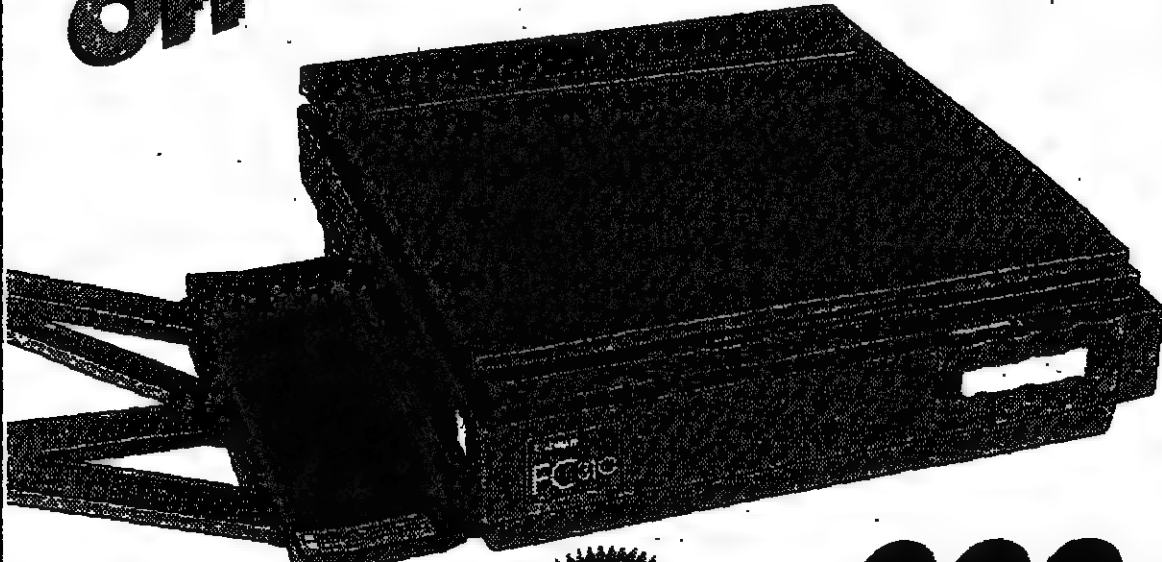
Having cleverly reinstated himself, Mr Brown went on to agree a new set of rules that will destroy much of the power of the Speaker's post, once considered the second most influential in America's most populous state. In fact, under California's term limits, Mr Brown must relinquish office after two years.

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## Trading spirit and clan networks keep Grozny refugees in fighting form

FROM ANATOL LIEVEN  
IN CHERNORECHYE, CHECHENIA

ON THE southern edge of Grozny, only a few miles from the front line, the open-air market in the suburb of Chernorechye is still working against a background of bomb-shattered blocks of flats. According to taste, you could call this a monument to human toughness or to free enterprise.

The fortitude of the women behind the stalls in the market reflects courage, but also stark necessity. Most are refugees, their

homes in the city destroyed. Asked why she was still working there, despite the danger, Meriam, an elderly Chechen woman, replied: "I can feed myself only by selling things here. I am staying with relations in the country, but they are not rich. I feel ashamed of living off them without doing something for myself." She said that in the whole morning, she had sold only two packets of cigarettes.

The refugee crisis in Chechnia is small in comparison with those in Rwanda or the former Yugoslavia, but in relation to the size of

Chechnia it is immense. According to estimates by officials from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the International Red Cross, up to 350,000 people may have been displaced, or more than a third of Chechnia's prewar population.

UNHCR officials complain that, although the Russian Government has asked for international aid to help the refugees, Russian officials are blocking their work. However, Sylvana Foa, the UNHCR spokeswoman, said yesterday that "we have now got permission to move

into Ingushetia until the end of the month."

Ingushetia, whose people are closely related ethnically to the Chechens, has become virtually a giant refugee camp. Even before this war began, Ingushetia, with a population of only 230,000, was home to about 70,000 Ingush refugees driven out of Ossetia in ethnic fighting in 1992. Then, in the past month, Ingushetia has been swamped with 90,000 fresh refugees from Chechnia.

The colossal shift of population within Chechnia is not as notice-

able as it would be in other societies, however, because the human suffering and above all homelessness are diminished by Chechen family, clan and social solidarity. There are no refugee camps yet in Chechnia.

Most Chechens came to Grozny from their ancestral villages; they return to their villages to be buried. As the war has progressed, more and more people have taken refuge with relations in the villages and small towns.

A good many people have simply moved from one part of Grozny to

another, to try to get away from the worst of the fighting. When the firing resumes, some of these people are always caught and blown to pieces. I saw one old grandmother apparently strolling down a street with casual courage as shells crashed not far away. But it was not courage. She was in fact moving as fast as her elderly, swollen legs and her bagful of possessions would let her.

Most of the refugees I have spoken with are complaint astonishingly little, and in Chernorechye and other markets, some are

showing the entrepreneurial spirit for which the Chechens have long been famous. Asya, a 49-year-old Chechen woman, had abandoned almost all her personal possessions in Grozny, but had escaped with several boxes of frozen chickens, and Russian-made women's boots.

She said: "I have been a refugee for a month now. Since my flat in Grozny was destroyed I have been staying with relations here in Gotti [south of the capital] and there are 25 of us living in one room. But the Russians will never beat us. I have lost everything, and I tell you that."

## Major reprimands Yeltsin as Chechen war scaled down

BY MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR, AND RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

JOHN MAJOR has sent a "firm but frank" warning to President Yeltsin, telling him that Russia's assault on Grozny, the Chechen capital, has caused deep concern in Britain and is in danger of jeopardising the popular support for the Russian leader enjoys among Britons.

The Prime Minister's letter, delivered yesterday by Sir Brian Fall, the British Ambassador in Moscow, was in reply to one Mr Major received from Mr Yeltsin at the end of last week. In this, the Russian President tried to explain why he had been forced to use military force and appealed for Western understanding.

Downing Street made clear yesterday that, while Mr Major's tone was firm, his reply was that of a man who considers himself a friend and ally of the Russian leader.

Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary, has already expressed British concern about the military intervention in the Caucasus in a swiftly worded exchange with Andrei Kozhev, his Russian counterpart, and has urged Moscow to end the fighting, seek a negotiated solution and allow international aid to reach the Chechen people.

In Moscow yesterday, in a move calculated to try to ease

such international concerns, as well as those at home, the powerful Presidential Security Council announced that the campaign in Chechnia was being wound down and that frontline army units were being replaced by Interior Ministry troops. It said its military action was "effectively over", and went so far as to congratulate General Pavel Grachev, the Defence Minister, on his handling of the unpopular campaign.

Oleg Lobov, the secretary of the council, even suggested that Russia's control of the situation on the ground was so effective that elections could be held in Chechnia as early as this year.

Moscow clearly hopes that, by reducing the profile of its forces on the ground, it can start to patch up its battered international image and try to limit the damage to its ailing economy. The council's announcement came as a team from the 53-nation Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe arrived for talks with Russian officials over Chechnia. The delegation intends to inspect the battle-scarred republic tomorrow.

The announcement also coincided with preparations for an international economic

conference in Davos, Switzerland, where Russia hopes to ease the concerns of foreign investors. The Government has gone out of its way to try to reassure the West that economic reforms will continue in spite of fears that the war in Chechnia will push up inflation and affect the falling rouble.

After heavy government lobbying yesterday, the Duma, the lower house of parliament, passed the 1995 budget. The approval of the package was one of the main preconditions for a key international Monetary Fund stand-by loan of £4 billion being negotiated in Moscow.

At the same time Mr Yeltsin has dismissed Vladimir Plevanov, the unpopular Privatisation Minister, who terrified reformers by threatening to renationalise key sectors of the economy and banning foreigners from his ministry.

The two moves will not necessarily mean, however, that Russia's economic prospects are improving. First, it is perfectly possible that another headline nationalist could be appointed to the privatisation post and, second, economists say the proposed budget is totally unrealistic.

Letters, page 17

## Georgian general killed in Moscow

BY ANATOL LIEVEN

A FORMER Georgian Defence Minister was badly wounded in an assassination attempt in Moscow yesterday, and another Georgian general was killed. General Gia Karkarashvili was leaving a flat on Leninsky Prospekt with General Paata Datunashvili, his former deputy minister, when they were shot with automatic weapons.

It was the second attempt on General Karkarashvili's life. Last year he had a narrow escape when a bomb was discovered on board his plane. General Karkarashvili is hated by many people in the breakaway former Georgian region of Abkhazia. As a 26-year-old former Soviet lieutenant turned senior Georgian general, he played a leading part in the disastrous Georgian military intervention in Abkhazia in 1992, and on one occasion publicly threatened to exterminate the nation.

It is possible, however, that yesterday's attack was the work of organised crime, with which many leading figures in the Georgian Government and opposition are believed to have close links.

In another incident this week, the main power station serving the capital, Tbilisi, was damaged in what the Government says was sabotage. Last month, a leading opposition politician, Giorgi Chanturia, was shot dead by unidentified gunmen in Tbilisi and his wife was badly wounded. There have been several attacks on important figures in the past year.

A crisis flared two weeks ago when Tengiz Klovani, a former Defence Minister and bitter rival of General Karkarashvili, attempted to lead an armed march into Abkhazian territory, with the aim of recovering it for Georgia. They were intercepted by forces loyal to Eduard Shevardnadze, the Georgian leader, and disarmed after five people were wounded.

Mr Klovani was arrested this week on charges of organising illegal armed groups. His "march on Abkhazia" is being seen as a move against Mr Shevardnadze. Mr Klovani was a key figure in the coup that brought Mr Shevardnadze to power, but later broke with him.

Although Mr Shevardnadze's power base appears secure, the country is going through the fastest in a series of bad winters, with shortages of food and energy, and a currency that has inflated millions of times.



Polish soldiers clear snow from a walkway at the Auschwitz camp yesterday

## Millions of Stalin's gulag victims are rehabilitated

FROM REUTERS IN MOSCOW

PRESIDENT YELTSIN yesterday marked the Auschwitz death camp liberation 50 years ago by formally rehabilitating millions of gulag prisoners.

He acted to clear by official decree the names of Russians thrown into Soviet prison camps after the Second World War. Tass news agency said.

Russian troops liberated Auschwitz-Birkenau, the death camp that has come to symbolise the Holocaust, on January 27, 1945. But at home, Russian civilians and freed prisoners of war returning from camps in Germany and German-occupied Europe were branded as collaborators and spies by Stalin.

They were incarcerated in the Soviet gulag system of prison camps. Many died after spending years in brutal conditions. Tass said Mr

Yeltsin signed a decree to rehabilitate former gulag prisoners to mark the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz.

The document described the imprisonment of returning Soviet war prisoners and civilians as a violation of basic human rights and "political repression by the Communist Party", Tass said.

It said more than 1.5 million Soviet soldiers returned from Nazi camps after the end of the war. Branded as traitors for surrendering or identified as Nazi spies, most of them ended in the gulag system.

Interfax news agency said the surviving former soldiers would receive extra cash and special cards describing them as war veterans.

The Government has been instructed to make compensation payments ... to the for-

mer Soviet prisoners of war on a par with the citizens who were victims of Nazi reprisals," it said.

Mr Yeltsin's decree also rehabilitated Soviet civilians, believed by Western historians to number several million, who were sent to the camps after living out the war on territory occupied by Hitler's troops.

The Russian President is facing criticism for human rights abuses after Russian aircraft bombed and shelled civilian targets in Chechnia.

Germany is taking a prominent role in this week's Auschwitz ceremonies, but in Russia the gulags are still seldom recalled at high official level and there are few memorials to the victims.

Leading article, page 17

## Norway rocket gives Russian defences Cold War reminder

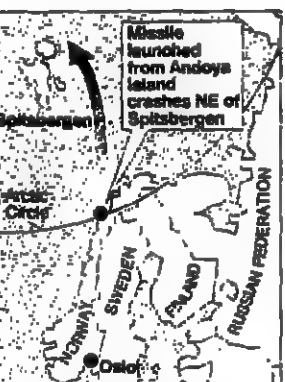
BY ANATOL LIEVEN  
AND ANDREW GLASSE IN OSLO

THE Cold War may be over but when a Moscow news agency announced yesterday that Russia had shot down an incoming "commissar missile" launched in northern Europe it seemed, for a brief moment, that nothing had changed.

Russia's air defences went on alert, the world's currency markets wavered.

Officials in Moscow initially denied all knowledge of the incident. Only when Norway announced that the missile was a civilian research rocket that had been crashed on purpose near the Arctic archipelago of Spitsbergen, more than 600 miles from Russian territory, did Interfax start retracting the story and some calm return.

The Black Brent XXII rocket, launched early yesterday



from the Andoya island aerospace centre just off the north coast of Norway, was part of a joint Norwegian-American project investigating the Aurora Borealis - the Northern Lights.

Commander Stig Morten Karlsten, Norway's Defence Spokesman, confirmed that there was nothing out of the

ordinary about the mission. All had gone as planned, and the dramatic world reactions had given everybody here something to smile about.

On the market, however, the initial report propelled the dollar about three-quarters of a penny higher against the mark. The mark is adversely affected by negative news from Russia because dealers fear that Germany will be the first to suffer from any trouble.

Vyacheslav Terekhov, deputy director of Interfax, blamed the mistake on false information from a high-ranking military source.

Dag Halvorsen, a senior diplomat at the Norwegian embassy in Moscow, said there had been several such missile launches under the same programme and the Russians were familiar with them.

## Balladur backs swift EU monetary union

FROM CHARLES BREMER IN PARIS

AFTER months of soft-pedalling on Europe, Edouard Balladur, the Prime Minister and favourite to become President, has proclaimed strong support for rapid monetary union.

M Balladur told a Franco-German gathering in Paris that France would be ready for monetary union by 1997, the date fixed in the Maastricht treaty when a single currency can be created if a majority of states are ready.

However, Alexandre

Lamfalussy, president of the European Monetary Institute, the embryo of a future European Central Bank, said yesterday that it was more likely that monetary union would have to wait until 1999, when it may be launched by a minority of countries.

Power cut: The power supply to the country home of M Balladur was cut off because he did not pay his bill on time. Power was restored the following day when the bill was paid. (Reuters)

## French men grow up

Paris: The average height of French men has increased by 2 1/2 inches over the past 40 years, women have grown at half that rate, the National Statistics Institute says today.

The institute says that the average height of men aged 20 to 29 is 5ft 9in compared with 5ft 7in in 1950 and 5ft 4in a century earlier. French women have grown 1 1/2 inches since 1950 to an average height of 5ft 5in, it adds. The French have not gained weight as they grew, however, becoming leaner on the whole, the institute said. (Reuters)

## Fini regroups neo-Fascists

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN FUGGLI, ITALY

NEO-FASCIST delegates to a historic congress of Italy's Italian Social Movement gave their supreme glorification to a tumultuous oration as he proposed to dissolve the party "in the national interest" yesterday.

He invited members of the Italian Social Movement (MSI), the latterday disciples of Mussolini, to regroup in the theoretically more moderate Alleanza Nazionale. About 1,600 delegates chanted "Fini, Fini" while waiting for several hours in a huge darkened marquee, erected in the spa

town of Fuggli for their new Duce to appear and deliver a rousing three-hour speech.

"The history of the Italian Social Movement is the history of the nation," Signor Fini, 43, said to wild applause after he joined the crowd in singing the national anthem. "We have been a sort of lay religion," he said, preparing the ground to overcome expected fierce opposition from diehard neo-Fascists such as his rival Pino Rauti and Teodoro Buontempo.

Discipline among the delegates, aware of television cam-

eras present, was rigid with all resisting the temptation to flash the straight-armed Roman salute that normally appears at MSI rallies. Party officials declined to admit any opposition exists to Signor Fini. "There are no factions. We are all with Fini," one said.

Signor Fini hopes to turn his party into what he claims will be a neo-Gaullist animal while not losing hardliner support. He reiterated his rejection of racism, praising Israel for the Middle East peace process. "Any form of racism or xenophobia is repugnant," he said.

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THE TIMES THURSDAY JANUARY 26 1995

## Israelis threaten to send troops back into Gaza

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

ISRAELI yesterday threatened to send troops back into Gaza if the Palestine Liberation Organisation failed to crack down more heavily on Islamic terrorists. A Cabinet committee also sanctioned the building of nearly 2,000 more Jewish homes on Arab land.

The warning, the first of its kind since the autonomy agreement was signed 16 months ago, was delivered as the Government came under increasing pressure to take action in the wake of last Sunday's double suicide bombing that killed 19 young Jews and injured more than 60 others, some of whom are still in a serious condition.

Members of Islamic Jihad, the group that carried out the attack, interpreted the warning, delivered by Moshe Gur, the Deputy Defence Minister, as meaning that Israel planned to launch a violent campaign against their leaders in the newly autonomous Gaza Strip. The organisation, which is reported to have up to 50 suicide bombers standing by, said its response would be much stronger than anything seen so far.

Mr Gur told deputies that Israel was satisfied with neither the scope nor the speed of the Palestinian National Authority's response in han-

dling over suspected terrorists to Israel. The Israelis claim that scores of these are seeking sanctuary in the Gaza Strip and the autonomous enclave of Jericho.

Clearly speaking with the approval of Yitzhak Rabin, the Prime Minister, Mr Gur said: "If we do not gain the impression that... the steps taken against Israel are in the spirit of the agreement between Israel and the Palestinians, Israel would have to reconsider the overall content of this part of the agreement."

Israeli sources said that the security forces would be free to launch operations against members of Islamic Jihad and Hamas, the Islamic Resistance Movement, if the Government took such unilateral action. Although such military action would be extremely popular with the Israeli public, it would probably wreck what is left of the peace deal with the PLO, strain new ties with Jordan and eliminate any chance of a treaty being signed with either Syria or Lebanon.

It is understood that the Government is under strong pressure from inside the security forces to take this action. The head of the General Security Service told a Knesset committee this week that the

security situation had worsened in the autonomous areas. He claimed that Palestinian police had not received orders from the PLO to clamp down. He also said that most of those detained on security offences will soon be released because the PLO-appointed police lacked the means to try them.

Foreign governments, including Britain, have launched a diplomatic initiative to persuade the Rabin administration to stick to the peace process despite the provocations by Islamic hardliners. In a message of condolence sent to Mr Rabin, John Major said: "You and your Government have shown courage and determination in the pursuit of peace, and I know that you will not want the enemies of peace to be allowed to disrupt this process."

The decision to approve the construction of 1,800 new homes in the settlement town of Maale Adumin, between annexed east Jerusalem and Jericho, was taken despite repeated Palestinian demands for a settlement freeze as a condition for continuing the peace talks. It was claimed as a victory by leaders of the 141,000 settlers in 144 communities spread throughout the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.



Dr McGown, right, leaves court yesterday with his lawyer, Mark Stonier, and his children, Makushla and Callum

## Zimbabwe judge jails doctor for neglect

FROM JAN RAATH IN HARARE

THE Scottish anaesthetist, Dr Richard McGown, who has been at the centre of a bitter race dispute for the past two years, was jailed for six months and fined \$210 000 (£750) yesterday by a High Court judge for professional negligence that resulted in the deaths of two young patients.

The tall doctor's features tightened as Judge Paddington Garwe passed sentence and said that he deserved to go to jail for "gross negli-

gence" in the death of 20-month-old Kalpesh Nagindas in July, 1988. For the death of Lavender Khaminwa, ten, in August 1990, McGown received what is regarded here as a severe fine.

It was the climax of a controversial trial that has inflamed racial emotions against the doctor in the wake of allegations — since discredited — by MPs who compared him with Nazi concentration camp doctors

and accused him of conducting dangerous and racist experiments on black women.

The trial had nothing to do with the MPs' claims, and centred on McGown's failure to provide proper post-operative nursing care to five patients. He was found guilty in respect of two of them. He discharged Nagindas immediately after a circumcision, and the baby died that night. The girl was put in an understaffed children's ward

after an appendectomy and died after complications.

Judge Garwe found that both deaths were associated with morphine injected into the spine as an anaesthetic, and that McGown, 58, had used excessive amounts.

The judge refused leave to appeal, saying the evidence was "overwhelming" and that the appeal had no chance of success. The defence said that they would be appealing the decision.

## Flu hits survivors of Kobe quake

BY OUR FOREIGN STAFF

A FLU epidemic has broken out among tens of thousands of refugees from the Kobe earthquake and appeals for doctors and nurses to go to the devastated area were made yesterday.

Signs of malnutrition were also seen among the refugees and, after working round the clock for eight days to cope with the nearly 27,000 injured, Kobe hospitals were at breaking point, with doctors and nurses collapsing from lack of sleep. "We are trying to get reinforcements from all around the country," a Kobe city official said.

More than half the 1,400 hospitals and clinics in the region were destroyed by the earthquake on January 17. The surviving hospitals are overcrowded and short-staffed. The death toll from the earthquake rose to 5,073 yesterday, with 61 people still listed as missing, the police said.

British rescuers said they had virtually no hope of finding any more survivors, the *Asahi Shimbun* newspaper reported. Willie McMartin, the head of the 15-member team, said: "Some medical opinions say that a person could survive for 13 days. But we have never located a survivor after the 11th day." He added that the freezing temperatures in Kobe made the chances of survival even more slender.

## PoWs on Tokyo mission to win compensation

FROM GWYN ROBINSON IN TOKYO

FORMER prisoners of war arrived in Tokyo yesterday to urge the Government to pay a multimillion pound claim for compensation.

Commentators said, however, that the timing of the British-led mission was "unfortunate" given the scale of last week's earthquake in Kobe.

The mission includes ten representatives of 25,000 former PoWs from Australia, Britain, New Zealand, and the United States, who are suing the Government for \$22,000 (£14,000) each as "token compensation" for wrongs suffered at the hands of the Japanese army during the Second World War. The preliminary hearing is set for Monday, but lawyers for the group

fear the proceedings could drag on for years. However, Maryn Day, a British solicitor and group representative, said they would propose an out-of-court settlement under which Japan would pay \$550 million into a central fund, similar to that set up in America for women affected by silicone implants.

Mr Day said senior British officials had told him that the Japanese "may be ready to make a deal. We are very optimistic. The Japanese Government is under such pressure. They are very very embarrassed at the mounting demands for compensation from victims of Japanese brutality and would like to resolve it."

The British Embassy in Tokyo has helped the group to arrange meetings with government officials to discuss

the proposal. However, the Government of Australia and other former allied countries have said that the matter is out of government hands as compensation issues were settled in the San Francisco Treaty of 1951.

Former PoWs in Australia reacted angrily to their Government's stance. "We are very disappointed in the way they have treated us — even to the extent that they don't want to give us advice," said Harry Rynenberg, who represents 1,000 Australians. He said the £50 he received from the 1951 settlement was "barely enough" for his mother to buy him a suit.

A British Embassy spokesman said the embassy was "doing what it can to help, within the legal confines of our position. There is no scope for us to take this matter up officially with the

Japanese Government. But the Prime Minister and Foreign Secretary have taken up their interests."

Mary Japanese, even if they sympathise, clearly think the timing is inappropriate or offensive. A radio commentator said last night: "The Government and people of Japan are clearly upset and absorbed with the crisis in Kobe; it seems a curious time to come here and ask for money, and it may do their cause more harm than good."

Mr Day acknowledged that the timing was far from ideal. "We talked about whether to cancel or postpone the visit. But first, it would be impractical with people coming from all over the world and second, this is an issue that has been going on for 50 years and it is time to resolve it."



Arthur Thierington, left, and Sid Tavender, former British PoWs in Japan yesterday

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## Julia Llewellyn Smith talks to William Trevor, winner of the Whitbread Prize

# 'I want everyone to tell me their story'

William Trevor has won so many prizes he is beginning to get careless. In November he scooped the £20,000 *Sunday Express* book award, on Tuesday he won the coveted Whitbread Prize of £21,000. In the champagne-soaked embers of the award ceremony, his wife, Jane, is flourishing a fancy, bound copy of his novel *Felicia's Journey*. "Better be careful," he says teasingly. "The last time I won a book like that we left it in the lavatory at Hachard's."

He has every reason to be a bit blasé, about the superlatives, the sycophancy, the blinding flashbulbs. At 66, Trevor is widely regarded as our greatest living short-story writer. He has two previous Whitbread novel awards, been shortlisted for the Booker Prize and has an honorary CBE for services to literature. "I suppose I am pretty used to winning things," he admits.

He is still quietly delighted, however, exhorting Jane to knock back the champagne. "They'll bring you anything you want!" he says. Yet even when he stands on the podium making his charming acceptance speech, Trevor seems detached, a ghost at the feast. It is not that he isn't grateful, more that he is not interested in his own life.

Trevor is a voyeur, an eavesdropper, a man personally fascinated by the lives of others. The fact that he has won an important literary award is secondary to the fact he has had the opportunity to gaze out at a roomful of strangers. "I would love all those people in front of me to come and tell me their stories," he says, and his watery blue eyes sparkle.

It is this extraordinary empathy, this absence of ego that makes Trevor's writing so powerful and his characters so moving. He records without comment the lives of driving instructors, governesses, retired whores and naive Irish girls: shifting almost seamlessly from the prosaic details of their daily lives to their inner dream worlds, without condemning or praising. The result is that while we may loathe some of his creations, our understanding means that we cannot totally dismiss them.

Trevor even makes it impossible not to sympathise with Mr Hilditch, the obese catering manager who is the anti-hero of *Felicia's Journey* and the most chilling fictional predator since the kidnapping clerk in John Fowles' *The Collector*. Hilditch, the reader

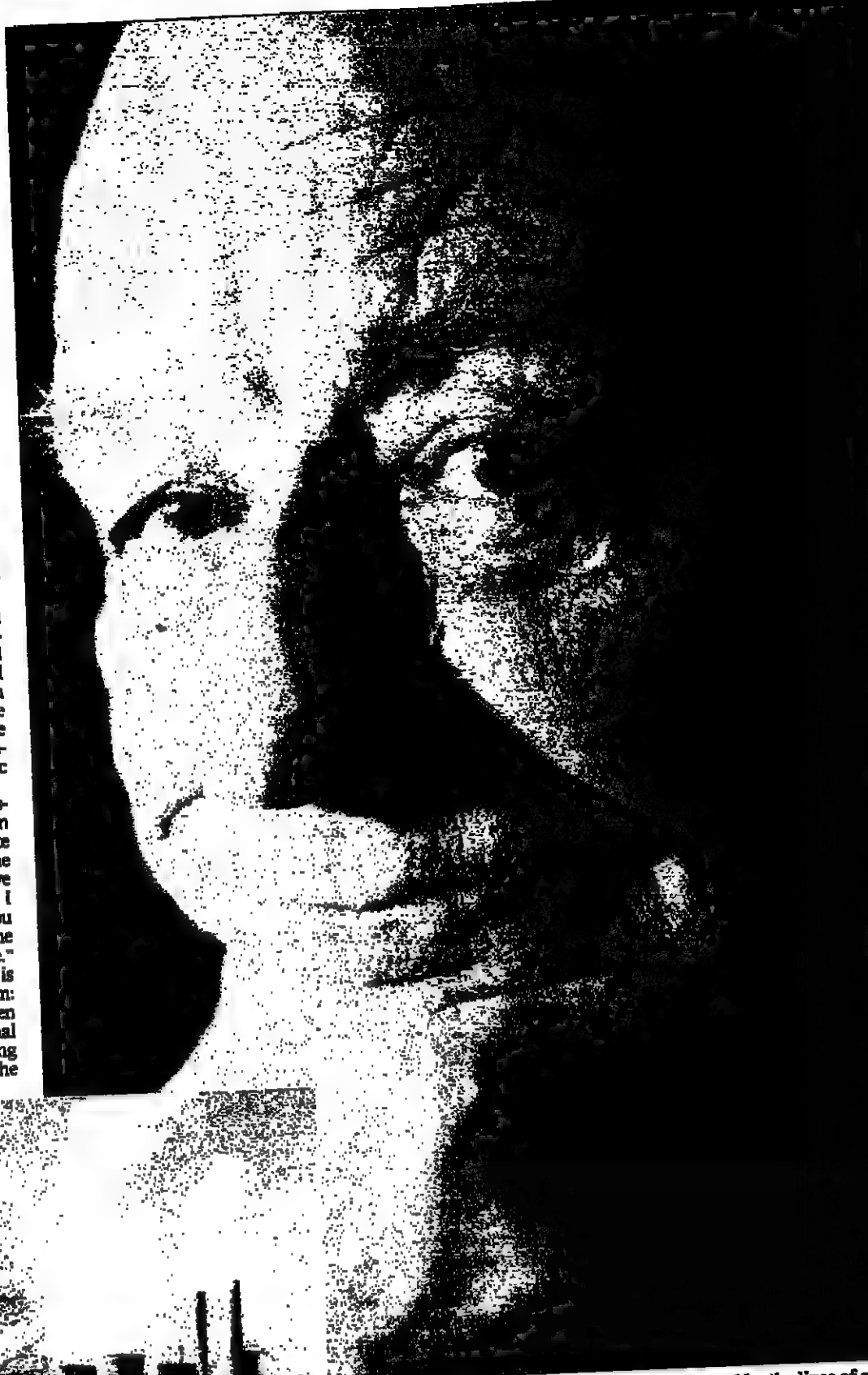
realises gradually, is a serial killer and the slightly subnormal Felicia, over from Ireland to find her feckless lover, is his prey. Some people have criticised Trevor for tackling such contemporary subjects as homelessness and mass murder. Certainly it is hard to imagine how such horrors can have touched this man with the sweet, sad face of a faithful bloodhound, a man who lives an idyllic life in Devon.

The author is courteously dismissive of this argument. "People seem to think it is very difficult to write because you are tied up in some small place. But I have to live somewhere. Also, at some point, I have to leave that base and all you have to do is walk through the streets of London and it's all there."

In any case, *Felicia's Journey* is more than a slice of gritty realism: it is about the battle between Felicia's innocence and the "banal evil" of Hilditch, an evil so chilling it gave me a sleepless night. In the end good wins through, but Trevor did not know this when he started the novel. "I don't know what's going to happen in a story, just as we don't know what's going to happen with life. Just think how dull it would be if I did know the outcome," he says, looking genuinely horrified. "The excitement is being curious. That's what keeps me going."

It keeps him going pretty hard: he works every day from 7am, breaking off only for eleven o'clock coffee and Rice Krispies. "Then I go back and try to work out what someone is like, who so and so is, how their minds work."

Trevor's characters absorb his energy like blotting paper, leaving their creator wan — and, he claims, dull. He rarely gives interviews because he feels he has little life outside his work. "Your whole existence goes into getting people on to paper, trying to tell their stories. I think I am a bit schizoid: there is the person that is me and the person who writes. And you will sit down at your typewriter sometimes and write about rather



William Trevor: a man perpetually fascinated by the lives of others

*Felicia's Journey*  
WILLIAM TREVOR

interesting and extraordinary people. But while you are doing it there's nothing very much of yourself there.

"I get very melancholy if I don't write," he continues, eyes twinkling. "I'm a very ratty and difficult kind of person, that's why I dedicate all my novels to my wife, because I think I must be very hard to live with."

He may think his details are

irrelevant, but Trevor's childhood offers clues to this desire for anonymity, his concern with the disenfranchised and the rootless. He was born, William Trevor Cost, in County Cork to a Protestant family — a minority that in all my life has seemed in danger of withering away — and, thanks to his father's work with the Bank of Ireland, he moved schools 13 times.

He moved to England in his twenties, where he was a sculptor, a teacher and, when poverty dictated, worked briefly in an advertising agency. He did not begin to write until he was 35. The Irish tradition of story telling was vital to his art: "I would describe myself not as a novelist or short-story writer, but as a story writer," he says. "Story is the all-important thing."

If it is so important, why is he so reluctant to dwell on the story of his own life? After all, he is inquisitive about other writers. "Of course when you read the Brontës you want to know about them. But you don't think that the same thing applies to you. I don't expect Emily Brontë thought anyone wanted to know about her."

But Emily Brontë would have been wrong. "Yes, it's an interesting thing, I think if I were dead perhaps it would be interesting to find out about me. But I would hope that some of the people I write about are much more interesting. I think readers would be disappointed when they found out I was a boring person who lives in Devon and has a boring life."

© *Felicia's Journey*, by William Trevor, Viking, £15.

## Truths that had to be told about Hugh Grant

A new Niven — or just a tiresome fake with an eagle eye for self-publicity?

HIT me with your hate-mail, upbraid me for being a joyless old bag and relegate me to the B-list in Beverly Hills, but some unpopular truths just have to be told, so here goes: the most annoying and over-rated celebrity in Britain is Hugh Grant, actor.

His cheesy features, hand ruffling in fake confusion through his carefully dishevelled hair, greeted us on the front page of Monday morning's papers. Grant had collected some not-quite-an-Oscar award in Hollywood and, strangely for a comedy actor, made the other guests laugh in his acceptance speech.

Back home, a solemn *Daily Telegraph* leader praised him as "a witty ambassador for Britain" and crowned him, "the sort of Englishman whom it has become fashionable to knock as being outdated, even irrelevant or embarrassing".

Wrong, alas. The problem is that it has become unfashionable to acknowledge that Hugh is irrelevant and embarrassing. Outdated, he admittedly is not. An Englishman made for export in the Nineties, he exudes the charm, shyness and a gawky sense of style that assure a pleasant pink-plink-fizz after the shrill Eighties. But the Nineties Josephism he embodies is knowing and post-modernist — an elaborate fake.

Thus our hero looks as if he had attended a glamorous public school — Westminster, say. In fact went to the far less pretentious Upper Lintymer, in Hammersmith. He has adopted the gestures of the tiff without really being one himself. Even his memories of Oxford are carefully cultivated for maximum Brideshead evocation: "Drifting to parties, snogging a few softies and then leaving," as he confided in a recent interview. Haven't you noticed, Hugh is always a tiny bit shocking in his confessions, but not so much as to alarm anyone?

More prosaically, he belonged during his days at New College to that subset of self-absorbed show-offs known as "drama hacks" and only marginally less loved than student journalists or politicians. The attention-seeking hack is what he essentially remains.

Having rewarded the staff of a small hotel who had looked after him on location in Wales with the boorish nicknames Serial Killer, Fairy Bread and Breathing Glass, he thought: these hilarious enough to merit making public in an interview.

rousing the understandable fury of the hotel workers. Not for the first time, one is reminded of a smuggering undergraduate.

In Elizabeth Hurley, he has the "right" girlfriend, although whether the relationship is a deeply romantic one is not clear, since they appear to see each other rarely, other than at film premieres and award ceremonies. London friends describe them as a brother-and-sister team, with a carefully evolved mutual support system.

Grant has nonetheless succeeded in stimulating Hollywood's perennial hunger for a comic English actor with romantic overtones. For which achievement all power to him and his bank account. But he is a pale epigone of the breed compared with past masters like David Niven or Rex Harrison.

His greatest gift lies in making a small comic talent go a long way. It would not be surprising if *Four Weddings and a Funeral* was the best performance he ever puts in, because it is so like his off-screen one. In the embarrassing follow-up, *Silence*, the limitations of his range of gestures and expressions were awfully obvious.

But it would be unfair to confine criticism to his films. Grant talks a lot more than he acts and every public outing is a performance intended for review. "It is with tremendous ill-grace," he told the *Golden Globe* awards, "that I grudgingly acknowledge the contribution of other people..." He concluded by thanking a Hurley "who put up with easily the nastiest, most ill-tempered, prima-donna-ish actor in English cinema for six weeks".

HOLLYWOOD deemed this mock-cum-ironic address a veritable triumph of the comic art. After that speech, Hugh Grant virtually added another notch to what he can change *Widows*, quipped one producer.

With his stream of nervous wisecracks, ever-ready impish grin and flow of self-deprecation, barely concealing a monster ego, Grant pre-emptively deconstructs his own vanity, admitting that he had been "queasy" in Wales because he was unhappy with his accommodation above a pub and that he can be "a bit of a brat".

This apparent masochism could, of course, hide a deeply sensitive nature and a heart of gold. Or maybe that's just what he wants us to think. We shall probably never know. Clever old Hugh.

ANNE MCELVOY



## Yesterday's men were richer

History and some maths reveal a dramatic decline in top people's pay



Wellington, Chamberlain and Major at today's pay rates

Judges, government ministers and men of the cloth are some of the greatest losers in history's pay league. The Archbishop of Canterbury has lost 95 per cent of his salary since the last century. The Prime Minister has lost 88 per cent. This is a reflection of the declining profile of the Church in British society, or evidence that our public servants are just not as highly valued as they once were? History suggests the latter. Men of God, judges and Prime Ministers are extremely badly paid compared to the past. There has been a crescendo of moaning in recent years about declining standards and mediocrity in public life. The key may well lie in what we choose to pay our public servants.

It was announced last week that Singapore, fast becoming one of the richest countries in the world, intends to tie the pay of its top politicians and civil servants to that of the highest-paid executives in the private sector. This is designed to ensure that Singapore's vibrant economy is complemented by high-calibre government.

Britain is moving in the opposite direction. The Nolan Committee, set up by John Major to counter accusations of sleaze in Government, announced that it intends to recommend a radical tightening up of MPs' private business activities. But history provides considerable ammunition to those MPs who argue that they need outside interests to supplement their meagre parliamentary salaries.

Prime Ministers were first paid from the public purse in 1830. In the following year, John Wade published *The Extraordinary Black Book*, a guide to the "income and expenses of the ancient régime". It is an eye opener.

In 1831, the Duke of Wellington was the First Lord of the Treasury — the post which nowadays is filled by the Prime Minister. The Iron Duke was paid £4,022 in salary and, as was common practice in the 19th century, also received an annual pension of £13,168.

Taking account of inflation (figures courtesy of the Central Statistical Office and Roger Bootle, chief economist at Midland Bank), the Duke's salary is the equivalent of £743,000 today. John Major earns £55,900 as Prime Minister on top of his MPs salary of £33,189. The total of £89,089 is just 12 per cent of the Duke's wages.

But that ignores earnings growth since the last century. On a conservative estimate of 1 per cent income growth a year, the Duke's earnings would be worth just under £3 million a year. On a more realistic assumption of 2 per cent wages growth, this would rise to a princely £17 million.

It might be argued that winning the Battle of Waterloo entitled the Duke to a larger reward than John Major is

£44,640. Judges have used their sharp legal minds to protect themselves far better over time, but they still earn only about 25 per cent of what the Judges of the Court of the King's Bench received in 1831. Jonathan Clark of All Souls College, Oxford, has no doubt that the generous pay levels of the 19th century ensured high quality in public life. "No wonder people of enormous calibre sought to have political careers and careers in other parts of public life," he says.

The rot set in for British politicians in the 1830s, as Whig reforms not only enfranchised more voters but also developed a new ethic of public service. The concept of general poverty was born. The attitude became widespread that public service should score high on morality but low on society's pay scale.

That attitude persists today, and even spreads to the private sector. Society explodes when Cedric Brown, chief executive of British Gas, receives an increase in his salary to £475,000. Is his contribution to Britain really so meagre compared to 19th-century Archbishop of Canterbury?

JANET BUSH

Yesterday's Rose Kennedy article was written by Nigel Hamilton.

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Lack of iodine and its effect on intelligence □ What to think about a nasal drip □ Benefits of combining Wellcome and Glaxo drugs



UNTIL this week most doctors had rather forgotten the pharmacology of iodine. It is still, as Lugol's solution, used in an emergency to treat a very acutely overactive thyroid gland, the so-called thyroid storm, and to prepare patients before they undergo thyroid surgery.

Iodine no longer enjoys the important place in the pharmacopoeia it held 13 years ago. At that time a bottle of tincture of iodine was not only in every doctor's surgery and every school sick-room, but also in every bathroom cupboard. It was painted onto cuts, bruises and bites and, in other forms, was used as an ingredient of cough medicines, embrocations and to sterilise the skin before surgery. It effectively destroys bacteria, viruses, fungi, protozoa, cysts and spores, and as late as 1984 tincture of iodine was still recommended by the World Health Organisation for the treatment of dog bites whenever there was a suspicion of rabies.

The use of iodine on unbroken skin was discontinued as it is

## Real food for thought



MEDICAL BRIEFING  
Dr Thomas Stuttard

potentially very damaging to healthy tissue even if organisms are destroyed. The use of iodides in cough medicine was also given up because of their toxicity and the harm they could do to the thyroid gland in patients with pre-existing thyroid disease who were pregnant or breastfeeding.

This week's *British Medical Journal* reports on the importance of iodine as a trace element in the diet. Iodine is essential for the correct maturation and functioning of the thyroid gland. But in Britain the number of cases in which iodine deficiency

in the diet has given rise in adults to goitre, with the inherent danger of an underactive thyroid, are very small. Similarly small are the cases of cretinism in young children. In babies hypothyroidism results in delayed physical and mental development. Not all cases are due to lack of iodine, so the occasional case is seen, although it is not easy to diagnose. The babies' parents may complain that the child suffers from constipation, difficulty with feeding, failure to thrive and possibly slight jaundice. But by the time the signs of cretinism —

stunted growth, pot belly, lolling tongue — have appeared at a few months old, it may be too late to achieve a total cure by providing extra thyroxine and the brain may have been irretrievably damaged.

According to a recent official Chinese survey, however, more than 400 million people in China, one in every three, live in an area where the natural iodine supply is insufficient, and over eight million Chinese have a permanent, severely reduced IQ because of a shortage of iodine in the diet.

China is not alone in its problems: many millions are affected in the Indian sub-continent and Africa. In China it has become mandatory to add iodine to table and cooking salt. Similar precautions are already in existence in Switzerland, Poland, Hungary, Holland and several other European countries. In Britain it is not necessary; there is enough iodine in the ordinary diet.

If the Chinese authorities can implement their regulations the term cretin will become no more than a playground taunt, rather than what it is in many developing countries — an appalling and preventable disease.

## Nose poser



THE cold winds of the past few days have reminded those with big noses of the problems of the constant nasal drip, but little can be done about the reaction of the nasal mucosa to a northerly gale blowing in off the North Sea. However, at other times of the year when the nose runs because of an allergy to pollens, mould or other allergens, anti-histamines, steroid nasal drops or, very occasionally, steroids in tablet or injection form will usually control the symptoms.

*General Practitioner* magazine reports this week that the ENT sub-committee of the British Society for Allergy and Clinical Immunology has published guidelines for doctors on the treatment and investigation of blocked noses, runny noses and facial pain.

Not all nasal drips result from exposure to the elements, or to neighbours' flowers or pets, and

the cause can be more sinister. Referral to a consultant ear nose and throat surgeon is recommended if the drip fails to respond to standard treatment, if it is serosanguineous (bloody), one-sided or recurrently infected. If the tissue in the orbit becomes inflamed, immediate referral is essential.

Doctors can obtain copies of the committee's guidelines from Shire Hall, 3 Olaf Street, London W11 4BE.

## HIV double



ALTHOUGH the City still has to approve the merger of Glaxo and Wellcome, drugs from the two companies are already being used to treat

the same patients, and research teams from both firms are working on similar problems in the treatment of HIV-positive patients.

Because Wellcome's anti-HIV drug AZT (zidovudine) is potentially toxic, and can cause anaemia as

well as rashes and abdominal and muscle pains, it has been at the centre of controversy since it was launched. AZT may delay the progress of AIDS, but does not in any way cure it.

At a conference held recently in Glasgow, researchers reported that when Glaxo's new anti-HIV preparation, 3TC (lamivudine), was combined with AZT, the two drugs taken together were more successful than AZT used alone. During a six-month period the CD4 (a type of blood cell) count, a useful guide to a patient's resistance to infection, increased appreciably when taking both drugs, but fell when the patients were switched to AZT alone. Similarly in the second six months those patients who had been taking AZT alone, and were then given 3TC as well, showed a marked improvement in the CD4 count.

Neither drug will effect a cure, and research continues to find anti-viral agents which will inhibit the virus's progress and at the same time boost the patient's immune system. But this combination of drugs would appear to offer promise. Lamivudine is not yet generally available.

# Sacks, science and sensibility

Ian Robertson  
meets the  
neurologist who  
studies the  
bizarre extremes  
of human life

The scene is early morning in the doctors' common room. Surgeon Carl Bennett is sitting on a sofa beside a colleague, when suddenly he twists on his side and taps his fellow doctor on the shoulder with his shoes. No one seems to notice, not even as Dr Bennett then lunges to the floor, half curls up, and begins to kick one foot in the air. At home, his refrigerator door is pock-marked like the moon from his involuntary jabbing and hurried objects.

The next day, Dr Oliver Sacks scrubs up with Dr Bennett as he prepares for surgery. He watches his sterile hands dart towards unsterile objects, almost but never quite touching. His feet touch colleagues and a barrage of "Hoody-hoody! Hoody-hoody!" sounds erupts from him, suggestive of a giant owl. In the theatre, Dr Bennett takes the knife and makes a bold incision on the breast of the patient. Over the next two hours he operates faultlessly, with no sign of a tic.

Dr Bennett, sufferer of the rare Gilles de la Tourette syndrome, is one of seven cases in Dr Oliver Sacks's latest book, *An Anthropologist on Mars*. Dr Bennett's brain is malfunctioning in some respects, but working brilliantly in others, and he manages to balance the two in the course of a productive life. Though poorly understood, the near-involuntary compulsions which Dr Bennett shows are thought to be caused by an overactive dopamine neurotransmitter (brain chemical messenger) system in the basal ganglia and limbic areas of the brain.

To some extent the lower, evolutionarily earlier parts of the brain may be partly out of control of the higher, evolutionarily more advanced parts of the cerebral cortex, though they can clearly be reined by concentration — for instance while operating on patients, as in Dr Bennett's case.

Dr Oliver Sacks is in his native London this week, but has lived in New York since 1965, where he is Clinical Professor of Neurology at Albert Einstein College of Medicine. He lives alone and



Dr Oliver Sacks: he has been accused of parading a freak show; now he writes mainly about articulate people who have some fascinating condition

spends much of his life flying around the world studying the bizarre and exotic of the human species: when I met him in his London hotel, he had just returned from Pingelap, the Island of the Colour Blind in the Pacific where a quarter of the population carry the gene for colour blindness.

Dr Sacks is famously fat, and notoriously oversensitive to heat. When I met him he had lost weight, but spent two hours freezing in his hotel suite with the January wind hissing at the open balcony door.

The search for self in the disordered brain impregnates the seven long, biographical case histories of this book, which I have no doubt will become as much a classic as his first book, *Awakenings*. But there is also an undertone of pathos, of a desire to be loved by his patients: for instance, that hug he gave the autistic woman, Temple Grandin, at Colorado airport

— did she return it or not? This is not just the neurologist considering the question of emotional responsiveness in autism; it is also the loner re-examining his relationship with his fellow human beings. And it is the endearing vulnerability, and the respectful warmth which suffuses these intimate investigations, which may lead in time to Dr Sacks being forgiven his previous book, *The Man who Mistook his Wife for a Hat*.

Forgiveness for what? For parading a freak show, complete with phoney reconstructed dialogue and passages such as this: "The day after I saw Ray, my first Tourette, my eyes and mind opened... when I saw no less than three Touretters — all as characteristic as Ray, though more florid — it was a day of visions for the neurological eye."

Was *The Hat* a freak show, I asked Dr Sacks? "I am sensitive to the notion. I hope that the length and depth of the current cases will counter that type of criticism. I worry about the *Hat* book — some of the things were a bit short..."

Not only a bit short, but also scientifically flawed enough in places to cause many a pursed lip among researchers pursuing a more rigorous study of the topics in question. And then there is the question of "romantic science". There is nothing romantic about losing the ability to remember things day to day. Or of screaming at a loved one because your brain has a diminished capacity to inhibit rage.

Romanticism makes a good copy but it also may exaggerate the sense of freakishness of brain-damaged people in the mind of the average person, increasing their isolation and obscuring the simple humanity of most of them.

Dr Sacks now writes mainly about articulate people who have some fascinating condition. Often, these people seem to contrast him in his public role, which quiets the ethical worries raised by *The Hat*. His cases include the successful surgeon with Gilles de la Tourette syndrome. Or the accomplished artist who became colour blind, but ends up happy in his monochrome world and resistant to any attempt to return him to colour.

How do his patients feel about being literary characters? "I would not write about anyone who could not bear to be written about. I remember Miriam — one of the *Awakenings* patients. She took my intimate descriptions of her mannerisms with equanimity, but detested a paragraph where I described her physical appearance in medical terms, so I removed that paragraph from later editions."

Later editions? He does not let his patients read what he writes before publishing it?

I found this strange, until I was profiled in *The New York Times*. They made personal comments about my psychological and existential state which I accepted, but I couldn't bear their descriptions of me as "grossly obese and eating constantly". That is why I lost six stone.

What is he trying to achieve in his writing? "In my depressed moods, I think I'm a drifter. But really my aim is to show the constructions concealed beneath the seamless face of health," said Dr Sacks. This he does, brilliantly and accessibly, in *An Anthropologist on Mars*. What I am not sure about is what my reactions would be if told that Dr Sacks was coming to see me in my hospital bed, sometime in early March.

● An Anthropologist on Mars by Oliver Sacks is published today by Picador, £15.99.

## Fifty years on, the fluoride fight is still not won

Why do we resist a simple public health measure, asks Nigel Hawkes

Fifty years ago this week, Grand Rapids, Michigan, was the first community in the world to be supplied with fluoridated water. On January 25, 1945, the equipment for adding one part per million of sodium fluoride to the water was switched on.

The experiment was the culmination of a research programme in America, which had shown that fluoride cuts tooth decay. The results, half a century later, demonstrate that as a public health measure there is little to match it.

For every dollar spent, \$80 are saved in dental treatment costs. Tooth decay is cut by 70 per cent, and the costs are low. It has been estimated that an individual can be provided for life with fluoridated water for the cost of a single filling. And yet today no more than about 10 per cent of British consumers drink fluoridated water.

The persistence of the anti-fluoridation lobby has combined with a lack of determination among dentists and successive health ministers. In this week's *British Dental Journal*, the editor, Mike Grace, admits to a feeling of guilt at his own inaction, and says that the opposition to fluoridation "defies rational understanding". Opinion polls show that eight out of ten people support fluoridation, yet it is actually on the retreat in Britain.

The effects are shown very clearly in a study on the island of Anglesey, published in the *BDJ*. Fluoridation began there in the 1950s, but from 1987 it became erratic and in 1991 Welsh Water terminated it altogether.

The study, by a group from the University of Wales and Gwynedd Health Authority, shows that in 1988, the last year of effective fluoridation, the average five-year-old in Anglesey had 0.8 damaged, missing, or filled teeth, while the figure for children on the Welsh mainland was 2.26. By 1993, the figure in Anglesey had reached 2.01.

The issue tests health authorities against water companies. All the top managers of Gwynedd Health Authority appeal in the *BDJ* to Welsh Water to reconsider its decision. "We deeply regret that Welsh Water is not prepared to re-establish water fluoridation on the island," they write. What frightens the water

companies is the fear of litigation if anything should go wrong. North West Water told the Minister of Health in 1993 that unless it was legally compelled to extend fluoridation, it would not do so. But the Health Department's oral health strategy makes no mention of compulsion, and children in the North West continue to have the rottenest teeth in England.

In America, 56 per cent of the population now receive fluoridated water and, says Michael Easley of the Kentucky Department of Health, opposition is diminishing. Litigation has failed, with no court of last resort ever ruling against fluoride. Technically, he says, "the addition of fluoride to communal drinking water systems is no different



The evidence is clear: more fluoride, less decay

ent to the process involving many of the other 40-odd chemicals routinely added to drinking water."

In Britain we can at least be thankful that fluoride toothpastes confer most of the same benefits, so long as you use them regularly. But not everybody does: there is a minority to whom the toothbrush is an alien instrument. Fluoridation would be the answer, but don't hold your breath.



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## Janet Daley



■ Britain puts a fair trial before freedom of speech, but O.J. Simpson is not being given the same privilege

You may have seen the film *Capricorn One*, which was shown on television recently. The chief interest of this opus now lies in the fact that one of its stars was O.J. Simpson. *Capricorn One* presents the intriguing, if improbable, thesis that a hoax space mission supposedly landing men on Mars could be foisted on the American public. Three astronauts were to be "seen" (via television trickery) travelling to Mars when their spacecraft was actually sitting in a disused hangar.

This plot has some relevance to the curious event — I refrain from calling it a trial — in which O.J. Simpson is now starring. *Capricorn One* represents the quintessential American political nightmare: that the government (or some other omnipotent force) will succeed in perpetrating a lie of gargantuan proportions on the citizenry. In order to understand the takeover of the American criminal justice system by showbusiness, you must appreciate the national paranoia about secrecy of any kind.

Most commentators explain the absence of *sub judice* laws in the United States by pointing to the constitutional right to free speech. Certainly the right to express one's opinion — or, as in this case, to speculate wildly without real knowledge or expertise — is seen as inviolate in the United States. Having the liberty to shoot your mouth off, however little you know, is bound up with American ideas about equality: no one's opinion is inherently any better than anyone else's and therefore no one should be prevented from speaking his mind.

Any attempt to suppress that right — especially one which suggested that only the knowledgeable should be permitted to comment — would be seen as sinister and subversive of democracy. So sacred is this belief in unfettered debate that even the administering of justice takes second place in importance. If an individual's right to a fair (which is to say, unprejudiced) trial is jeopardised by the universal right of free speech, then so be it.

That, at least, is how we are inclined to see the American priorities. In British eyes, Americans seem to be making a clear and dangerous choice to elevate one right over the other. With the Simpson trial before us as a cautionary tale, and our own laws of contempt of court under pressure, perhaps we might compare these two sets of assumptions and what they imply in terms of respect for the judgment and integrity of ordinary people.

The constitutional right to free expression explains one ingredient of the American attitude. It accounts for the

absence of any law equivalent to the British Contempt of Court Act of 1981, which prohibits any writing, speech or broadcast regardless of intent which creates a substantial risk of prejudice to any active proceedings. A British journalist may be held to be in contempt for publishing (or broadcasting) any information which might sway a juror's mind. He will also be guilty of contempt if he seeks to find out what the jury discussed while reaching their verdict, or if he reveals the name of a black-mail victim at the end of a trial (so deterring other black-mail victims from bringing charges), or if he vilifies a witness (thus deterring people from coming forward as witnesses). One glance at a week's worth of tabloid newspapers will tell you that these rules are being stretched — if not flouted — regularly.

The possibility of trials collapsing on the grounds of "prejudicial media coverage" is now a constant danger: charges against Frederick West's widow, Colin Stagg and even (I am not suggesting any parity of charges here) the

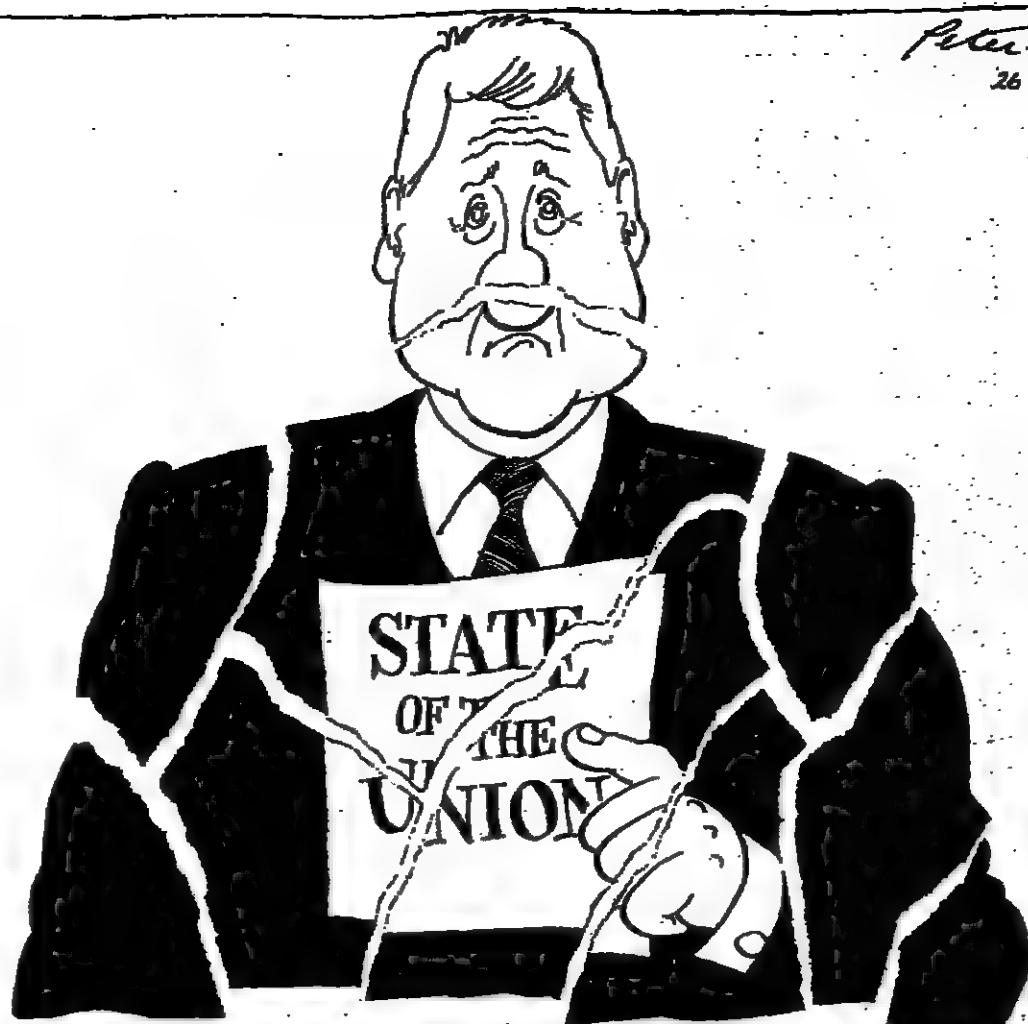
Maxwell brothers are all subject to such controversy at the moment.

Arguably, the biggest favour you can do the accused is to subject him or her to unfavourable publicity, and so

rule out the possibility of a "fair trial". But this presupposes that for a juror to be fair-minded he must be a *tabula rasa*, upon which no impression of the case has ever been made. It implies, in other words, that anyone who has been exposed to press gossip and speculation — however ill-informed and far-fetched — is not going to be properly receptive to the far superior evidence and argument that he hears in the courtroom.

A law of this kind would be regarded by most Americans as little short of totalitarian. It would certainly be thrown out by the Supreme Court as unconstitutional. And this would not just be because it would prevent people expressing their views, but — at least as important — because it would bar the seeking and exposing of information. Which brings us back to *Capricorn One*. Withholding information goes hand in hand in the American mind with manipulating the public perception of reality. O.J. Simpson's trial may collapse into farce by failing to distinguish between justice and popular opinion. But in British law, public opinion — especially if it is left to its own vulgar appetites — is seen as a threat to justice. Is the American system, with all its repugnant excesses, a purer form — or just a later stage — of democracy?

**Damning publicity can be a favour to the accused**



union is a whole formed by uniting parts, an association formed by the uniting of people.

# Europe's engine splutters

We should be quaking: Germany can no longer pay Europe's deficits, so who will?

If it had not been going on for so long the world's over-dependence on Japanese savings would already be seen as the crisis it could so easily become. The *Economist's* "Pocket World in Figures" gives a well-researched set of the relevant statistics: unavoidably, they belong to 1992, the last fully documented year.

If one adds up the recorded current account surpluses, Japan accounts for over 60 per cent, with a surplus nine times that of Switzerland, which comes second in the world league table. Of the eight largest economies, only Japan and France had a surplus at all. Japan's was \$118 billion and France's a mere \$4 billion. The US and Canada had combined deficits of \$99 billion: the five largest European economies had combined deficits of \$77 billion.

It is not much of a comfort that these figures belong to 1992. That was a year of world recession, when the demand for capital was unusually low. Since then, there has been a recovery in North America and a rather later recovery in Europe. The emerging countries of Asia, including China, have increased their very large investment needs. In the period 1985-92, China's economy grew at an average rate of over 9 per cent a year: that would double the size of the Chinese economy every eight years. The world's largest nation also has the world's most rapidly growing economy. Japan has continued to provide at least 60 per cent of the net funds entering the international capital market, although the actual availability of capital depends on changes in credit conditions as well as on the nominal supply of funds.

Last week, the Kobe earthquake reminded everyone, including the Japanese, that the world's financial system is based on an earthquake zone. The Japanese are now beginning to receive further and better estimates of the cost of this earthquake, and, as usually happens in such cases, the estimates are rising. Last week I reported an upper estimate of \$200 billion, about 5 per cent of the Japanese gross domestic product. Most people then thought that was too high. On Monday, Kosaku Inaba, the president of the Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said the damage could cost \$400 billion to repair, almost 10 per cent of GDP, or more than three times Japan's current account surplus. On top of that, and potentially much

larger, will be the anti-earthquake works needed in those parts of Japan which were not affected this time, particularly Tokyo.

Both Europe and America therefore need to prepare for the time when the Japanese \$100 billion may not be available to make the sums of world savings and investment add up, because much of it will be spent in Japan itself. If Japan does decide to concentrate on financing its own infrastructure, or Chinese industry, rather than the European or American deficit, it could cause the biggest capital crunch since the 1930s. Kobe is, at the very least, a serious warning, and if Mr Inaba is right it is more than that. Tokyo's stock market thought he was right, and fell 5 per cent in a day.

Seven years ago, many Europeans believed they had a little Japan in their own backyard. But one of the biggest miscalculations has been the belief that Germany is a financial giant able to bear any burdens. Germany too had something like an earthquake in 1989: the fall of the Berlin Wall.

The figures for the change since 1989 were given by Thomas Mayer in an important article on the German savings gap in this Tuesday's *Wall Street Journal*. He is a senior economist at Goldman Sachs in Frankfurt. In the first ten months of 1994, Germany had a current account deficit of nearly 20 billion marks, or about \$33 billion. At an annualised rate that is about two-thirds greater than the 1992 deficit. Mr Mayer lists some of the reasons for this: they include inadequate savings, high government spending, the continued drain of East Germany, the costs of the European Community, high taxes on income and over-regulation. This continued decline is alarming: the deterioration in the German current account between 1989 and 1994 is well over \$100 billion. That is almost as big a decline in Germany as the whole of the Japanese surplus.

The myth is that Germany is a potential supplier of capital to meet the needs of the whole of the rest of

Europe including Eastern Europe and Russia; that myth is still widely believed, as the continued strength of the mark shows. But it is no longer true. Germany has neither the savings nor the export surplus to make that possible. All the signs are that Germany will be a large net importer of capital for the rest of the decade, competing with America, Italy, Britain, Spain and Canada. So long as there are no more earthquakes, most of that capital is presumably expected to come from Japan.

The Maastricht model, which was designed by Chancellor Kohl and

Jacques Delors, depended on the Germans continuing to be the main source of funds for Europe, able to support both the Community itself and a strong European currency. That currency would initially be the mark, and subsequently the new European currency which was to replace it. If the German economy is not strong enough to carry these burdens, then the Maastricht model cannot be made to work. A European system dominated by a strong German economy might have its drawbacks, but a European system which depends on a weak German economy makes no sense at all. The assumption that the German economy will always be as strong as it was in the 1970s and 1980s is so deeply embedded in people's minds that they refuse to examine Mr Mayer's evidence.

Indeed, Germany has a highly efficient 1970s-style industrial economy. At least in Britain we had to recognise that our economy was failing in 1979: the Germans remained complacent about an increasingly indifferent economic performance in the 1980s, and have never gone through comparable reforms to correct the weaknesses. As compared even with Britain, Germany has higher government expenditure, higher direct taxes, higher industrial costs, lower invisible exports, a worse balance of payment trend, heavier commitments, less adequately funded pensions, a higher payment to the European Community, shorter work-

ing hours, more excessive regulation and in many areas far lower returns on capital employed. Germany does have a slightly higher savings rate — Britain's is also much too low — and has nearly twice Britain's share of the world's visible exports, coming close to America and even above Japan.

Yet German industry, splendid as it has been, is dangerously concentrated on products where there is high competition and poor growth prospects. Well over half of Germany's industrial exports are in technologies which had already been started by 1900, including steel, chemicals, automobiles, heavy engineering and machine tools. Apart from all the other problems of the German economy, it does not look as if German industry will be able to compete next century with the US, Japan or indeed China. Yet it will have to support a rapidly ageing population. To say these things is not to attack Germany, but to give a warning against overloading the German economy.

Any weakness in Germany is, of course, very bad news for Europe. The Europeanists have built a splendid bus, with a large German engine. The nations of Europe have piled on board this bus: some of them, like Britain, have actually paid for their tickets; others, like Ireland, Greece and the enormously wealthy Luxembourg, have received their tickets together with a significant tip from the German conductor. The great Maastricht mystery tour is about to begin. It is then discovered that the engine cannot possibly deliver the power needed to move the bus forward. What are the passengers to do? What they are only too likely to do in practice is to start quarrelling fiercely among themselves, shaking their fists in the air.

The problems of American and European dependence on the savings of Japan, and on the savings of Germany, which now has deficits like the rest of us, could turn into an acute world crisis: capital crunches lead to depressions. Interest rates are already edging up, and this type of capital famine could easily bring to an end the recovery of the mid-1990s. Admittedly, one can never foretell the precise timing of financial crises; sometimes they come when they are least expected and often they do not come when they are due. Yet the stresses are there: the question is when the next earthquake will be.

**William Rees-Mogg**

## Badger baiting

DISCORD has broken out in the usually harmonious ranks of the BBC Symphony Orchestra, where fears of creeping privatisation are rife. Last week, it passed a vote of no confidence in its management.

The orchestra is made up of individuals so circumspect that most would never have park on even a single yellow line. Yet the general manager, Louise Badger, has clearly got the players' goat. At a meeting convened in their Malda Vale studios last week, their blood was up and a vote of no confidence in Badger was passed.

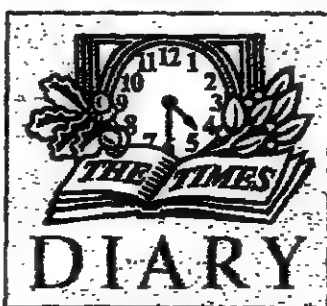
Nicholas Kenyon, the controller of Radio 3, rushed to meet the angry musicians, but according to one source, only inflamed the situation. Kenyon refused to discuss the dispute yesterday, and BBC management issued a bland statement. "The BBC has every confidence in the general manager, Louise Badger, and her team."

Members of the symphony orchestra refused yesterday to explain why they are quite so angry. There are suggestions, however, that Badger and the BBC management's idea of the day-to-day running of an orchestra is poles apart from that of the musicians.

● An appropriately named train ferried five fishy Euro-rebels from London to Norwich to meet trawlermen in Lowestoft yesterday. To their fury, it was called *The European Community*.

### Net loss

TOUCHING humility on the football field. Hereford United are so embarrassed by their recent form in the Endleigh League third divi-



Rusbridger ploughed through more than 70 well-thumbed manuals, all proffering advice on better sexual relations. But yesterday he dismissed any suggestion that the newspaper will become salacious under his stewardship. "You can dismiss the book as a product of youthful folly," he said.

The English Chamber Orchestra played on regardless at the Banqueting House in Whitehall on Tuesday night, as Julian Lloyd Webber, the cellist, opened the Stately Homes Music Festival. A series of power cuts plunged them sporadically into darkness, and police sirens wailed outside — but nothing could distract them.

"We were partially prepared, although it was touch-and-go at times," said one member of the orchestra. "There was a power cut in the rehearsals too." Lloyd Webber took it in his stride. "I could have helped, with a bit of DIY, if I'd been asked."

### New position

ALAN RUSBRIDGER, the new Editor of *The Guardian*, is renowned not just as a former *Diary* editor of the paper. He also possesses an unrivalled knowledge of sexual techniques, learnt during the course of research into his erudite book *A Concise History of the Sex Manual*, published in 1986.

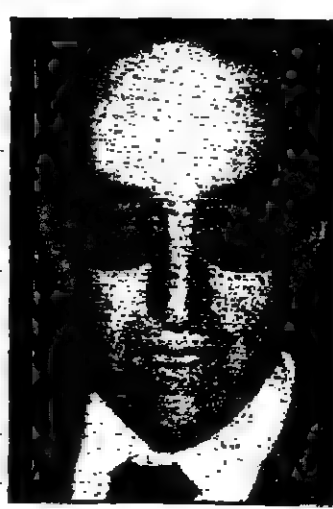
### Nachtmusik

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### Doubled up

SITTING quietly in a corner at the party in Mayfair yesterday to launch the new *Arena* series on the life of Peter Sellers was a familiar-



Are they related? Taylor (left) and Sellers

looking figure: receding hair, a long lean face with a beaky nose and large square glasses.

Partygoers such as the late actor's friends Herbert Lorn, Ian Carmichael and Burt Kwouk (who played Kato) eyed him uncertainly — only to discover he was John Taylor, Sellers's screen double in *The Fiendish Plot of Dr Fu Manchu*.

Taylor explained how he had ended up appearing in rather more of the film than expected. "Peter was already quite poorly at that stage. They had me in to do screen

tests and he came to see them. He must have thought I was quite like him, because when he left, he said: 'All right. That bugger can do the lot now.'"

● Last night's production of *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie* at the Strand Theatre, with Patricia Hodge, was jollier than normal. The audience were served wee drams of whisky in the interval to mark Burns Night.

P.H.S

## Teach our teachers a lesson

Christopher

Woodhead on schools' failings

What really matters in education is the integrity of the ideas which guide day-to-day activities. If those ideas are woolly, simplistic or otherwise corrupt, the process of educational reform will run into the sand.

There is general agreement that we now need a period of consolidation in education, but this should be no excuse for complacency. We certainly need to recognise that the limits of legislation on schools have, for the moment, been reached. To believe, however, that the implementation of recent reforms will in itself lead to our children achieving more is naive.

Much has been done in six years. We now have a national curriculum which is intellectually robust and manageable in the teaching time available. It defines a minimum entitlement for all pupils, and so acts as a safeguard against unacceptable eccentricities of local provision. We have schools responsible for their own budgets and the management of their own affairs. We have a new climate of accountability, with the spotlight shining on the relative achievement of different schools.

The framework for raising educational standards is now right, but the disappointing results of the national curriculum tests for pupils aged seven and 14 published this week show that there is still a long way to go — especially in state primary schools. What matters ultimately is the effectiveness of teachers.

This is a problem that cannot be ducked. Teachers' effectiveness depends upon the ideas, the values and assumptions, the beliefs about education which they have assimilated over the years. If they believe that education must always be relevant to the immediate interests of children, that the teaching of knowledge and facts is less important than the development of skills, that the adjective didactic must necessarily be pejorative, then however strong the political will, nothing much is going to happen.

We should use this period of consolidation creatively and purposefully. We need to ask hard questions about what in some schools have become unquestioned orthodoxies.

Take the prejudice against didacticism, or formal instruction. A teacher should be an authority, someone who knows and cares about his subject, who can explain matters which his pupils would not otherwise understand, and, in so doing, fire enthusiasm and engender, perhaps, an interest which lives on into adult life. Most of us, I imagine, can remember waiting for the bell to end the interminable drone from the front of the class. But this is no reason to replace the concept of the teacher as an authority with that of the teacher as "facilitator" whose job is to promote "active learning" and to treat children as young as five as "independent learners" supposed to discover for themselves all they need to know.

Education ought to be an initiation into the best that has been thought and said. It is only through education that the individual has the chance to achieve his humanity, and it is upon education that the continued existence of that humanity depends.

How then should we respond to the argument that absolute judgments about anything are impossible, that subjects are artificial impositions which fragment the seamless web of knowledge, and that it is the child, as the Plowden report had it, who is at the centre of primary education?

In a sense, of course, this last assertion is true. Education must be about the teaching of individual children. But what we have here is a partial truth which has hardened in too many schools into an all-consuming orthodoxy. It is precisely because it is impossible to legislate against such beliefs that the process of educational reform is so difficult.

What can be done? The role of the headteacher is, as ever, critical. Good schools are led by heads with clear educational vision and enough confidence to encourage staff, governors and parents alike to express their views and concerns. The result is a questioning culture which allows everyone to contribute to a continuous review of what works and what does not work.

Bad schools, conversely, seem able to survive only by developing a corporate identity of resistance: a commitment to their own ways of doing things, a collective solidarity in the face of perceived political interference or inadequate funding or difficult parents or pupils.

The Government's plans to reform teacher training are vital. New entrants to the profession must be exposed not to dogma and rhetoric, but to teachers with the highest possible expectations of themselves and their pupils. We have to challenge teachers to abandon the "progressive" ideas some still cling to. They must see what is being achieved in those schools which, day in and day out, are reviewing their aims and practice in a rigorous and dispassionate way. There is no magic wand, but now that the review of the national curriculum has ended, we have the chance to discuss our expectations of what children can and should achieve. No debate is more important.

The author is Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Schools.





## OUT OF AUSCHWITZ

As memories fade, the fiercer the message glows.

The moment when Russian troops reached Auschwitz-Birkenau on January 27, 1945, may be claimed as the most shocking in human history. Much was already known about the German concentration camps by that stage of the war. But their full horror was not grasped until Allied soldiers beheld the gas chambers, crematoria and the skeletal survivors of the systematic slaughter. Fifty years on, the first meeting between liberator and victim is no less emotionally resonant or appalling to recall.

This single moment of dreadful recognition has spawned many attempts to explain the Holocaust or to capture it in art. None has been wholly successful. "No poetry after Auschwitz," claimed Theodor Adorno. For all his majestic attempts to make sense of the camps, Primo Levi tended to the view that their ghastliness would always resist analysis. Stephen Spielberg's mastery film *Schindler's List* has introduced a new generation to the historical fact of the Final Solution. Yet its murderous insanity is no easier to comprehend than it was half a century ago. The mind still reels at the genocide that the Allies discovered.

The most contemptible response has been to deny or understate the reality of the concentration camps. The Jews of Europe felt this keenly before the liberation. "The world is silent," read one of the last messages to be sent from the Warsaw ghetto, "the world knows and stays silent." After the newsreels of early 1945, there was no possible excuse for denial. Yet some sought still to repress the indisputable horror that the soldiers had discovered.

In *The Informed Heart*, Bruno Bettelheim argues that many civilised people found the Holocaust too great a challenge to their beliefs and self-perception to be admitted as reality. "The implication that modern man has such inadequate control over his cruelty was felt as a threat," he wrote. "If all men are good, there was never an Auschwitz." When

the gates of the camps opened, the myth of inevitable human progress was shattered. Some still deny that the Holocaust took place. But the traumatic recollections of the liberators, the testimony of those they liberated and the physical evidence of the camps themselves stand as a constant reproach to such moral cowardice. All who live after this terrible event must confront it.

Many historical questions continue to be asked about the Holocaust, some more legitimate than others. Should the Allies have bombed the supply lines to the concentration camps? Should Churchill have made peace with Hitler earlier, as revisionist historians claim? The precise numbers of people exterminated in the camps is still a matter of debate; so too is the extent of the moral similarity between the German camps and the Soviet gulag. Yet such questions should not divert attention from the simple fact of what happened.

This is best appreciated in eyewitness accounts of the liberation, such as the letter which the British soldier Peter Coombs wrote to his wife in May 1945. "I have never seen people looking so ill, so wretched and so near to death," he wrote. "Belsen is a living death... and, if it is ever necessary, an undoubted answer to those who want to know what we have been fighting for."

The clarity of this observation is perhaps more obvious to us now than it was to the letter-writer's contemporaries. In the melee of the war's end, the camps were simply the most dreadful of many horrors occurring around the world. In retrospect, the exceptional nature of the Holocaust has become more and more obvious. The moment when the first startled Red Army soldier encountered an emaciated prisoner was one of supreme moral importance. It held up a mirror to man, and showed him the pure evil of which he is capable. Fifty years later, the flame of that comfortless truth glows brighter than ever.

## THE HUMBLE PRESIDENT

Clinton cannot even be sure of renomination by his own party

Times change. President Clinton told a joint session of Congress in his State of the Union address. For no one in the room was this truer than for himself. Two years ago he swept into Washington with the promise that the legislative deadlock would be broken by a new Democratic Administration acting in concert with the Democratic majorities on Capitol Hill. On Tuesday, a humbled Mr Clinton, under the triumphant smile of Newt Gingrich, spoke tentatively of his hopes for co-operation with a Congress in which Republicans dominate both chambers for the first time in 40 years.

On any other occasion, his speech might have been judged pragmatic. He did not hide his humiliation in last November's elections. He avoided recriminations or maudlin soul-searching. He made it clear to the millions of Americans watching that he accepted their verdict and would adjust his presidency to their new mood. He picked out areas where he saw common ground with the Republicans and would accept their agenda. He embraced middle class concerns, eschewed "big government" proposals and scaled down his grandiose health care plans.

If the President hoped, however, that his conversion would win him acclaim or blunt his enemies' talons, he was mistaken. His performance was unconvincing because it was so obviously forced on him. And the change of tack, coming after so many previous attempts to galvanise a flagging presidency and re-invent his persona, looked like just another flip-flop.

Mr Clinton has indeed moved back to the centre ground. But in discarding the more obviously "liberal" planks of his party's

platform, he has been careful to mark out those areas of policy where he will not compromise: his national service programme, recent gun control restrictions, and an insistence that the Republicans spell out how they will pay for a balanced budget amendment. This much he must salvage if he is to retain any credibility with his own supporters. He also had a jab at Congress itself in citing the statistic that a member of Congress earns in a month more a worker on the minimum wage receives in a year.

But however carefully crafted, this State of the Union message will not rescue his presidency. The Republicans have smelt blood and are eager to pursue their wounded quarry. The biggest threat now hanging over Mr Clinton's promise of constructive co-operation is the prospect of drawn-out congressional hearings into Whitewater. Senator Alfonse D'Amato of New York is waiting to use his position as chairman of the Senate banking subcommittee to get revenge for the Democrats' gloating during the Iran-Contra hearings.

Mr Clinton was advised after the November disaster to concentrate his attention more on foreign policy, an area where he still retains relative freedom of manoeuvre. Here, for example, he might exploit the Republicans' own vacillation between neo-isolationism and a forceful new line against Russia to protect the hard-won freedoms of Eastern Europe. A few successes in this area would help. But there is still little indication that Mr Clinton is focused on any initiatives. His attention will instead be concentrated on pre-empting challenges to his renomination from fellow senior Democrats. That does not augur well for the next two years.

## DRESS DOWN

Where men in suits may escape from uniform — once a week

Casual is the latest corporate fashion from America. Ford of England has ordered its staff to express their personalities by dressing more comfortably to work. Traditional suits and ties are no longer obligatory for male office staff. Women no longer have to turn themselves out formally in hemlines of a length appropriate to their status and ambitions. For workers unfamiliar with the casual concept, the company has issued guidelines. Blazers, sports jackets, blouses, sweaters, shirts with collars (open), and slacks are acceptable. Jeans, T-shirts, track-suits and trainers are not.

This casual dress code was first introduced as an experiment on Fridays. It proved such a success that Ford has now gone casual all week at all levels in its American offices last year. Absenteeism because of sickness has fallen. Productivity has increased. Although the connection between these facts may be disputed, one fact is clear enough: board meetings are no longer a forest of subfusc but a herbaceous border of kiltwear expressing personality. Except when the board meets the shareholders. Then suits are still *de rigueur*.

Where Ford leads, can the rest of industry dress down far behind? Hierarchies of uniform, in which clothes identify the office, are as old as smock for the peasant, doublet and hose for the knight and purple for the emperor. The Industrial Revolution bureaucratized them with top hat for the proprietor, bowler hat for the foreman, wing

collar for the clerk, and overalls for the labourer. But for how much longer?

Relaxation of dress codes will not end all the divisions of office life. It can bring extravagant competition in dressing up to kill, which is why many British schools still insist on uniform. Casual dress for every day of the week could accentuate rather than democratise the differences between different sorts of workers. The office boy could not afford the Armani blazer of the managing director, and he might not want to be seen by his friends in it anyway. Different jobs will still require different dress codes and conventions.

But anything that breaks down the compartments and glass ceilings of company life must have benefits for what corporate jargon used to call personnel and now calls human resources. It might also benefit the profits as well as the people.

The British invented casual Friday long before Ford. For many years old school ties and sports jackets were acceptable in the City on Fridays only — not for efficiency's sake but to speed up the early rush to the country. Perhaps, the British should follow their own traditions and the first Ford Model by dressing down on Fridays only. People think and behave differently in different environments and dress. Once out of their pinstripes or dungarees, people may think laterally. A casual office uniform — at least once a week — might encourage human resources to be more resourceful.

## 'Just and suitable' murder sentences

From Lord Ackner

Sir, There can be no doubt that on the evidence before the court, Private Lee Clegg (letters, January 21, 24, 25) acted without any lawful excuse when he killed Karen Reilly. It is equally clear that he acted without any evil or wicked motive. He was trying conscientiously to do his duty.

What I believe so seriously concerns the public is the injustice of his punishment, imprisonment for life, the actual length of his incarceration being determined not judicially but by a politician, in private, who has never heard the evidence at the trial, and without any right of appeal.

If the Government had been prepared to accept either of the two recommendations referred to below of the House of Lords Select Committee on Murder and Life Imprisonment, upon which I had the privilege to serve and which reported in July 1989, the present wholly unsatisfactory position would not have arisen. The proposals were:

1. Because the circumstances giving rise to murder vary infinitely, the mandatory life sentence for murder should be abolished. The life sentence would in future be discretionary and thus the range of penalties would be the same for any other very serious crime.

The committee said that it anticipated that after the introduction of a discretionary sentence of murder the average length of time served under a life sentence would be considerably longer than it is now. It expected that its proposals would lead to very lengthy sentences being served in the most grave cases. In some cases, this might result in imprisonment for the rest of the prisoner's life.

2. That a new defence reducing murder to manslaughter should be created "where a person kills in a situation in which it is reasonable for some force to be used in self-defence or in the prevention of crime, but the defendant used excessive force, if at the time of the act he honestly believed that the force he used was reasonable in the circumstances".

The then Lord Chief Justice told the committee that he had always thought it wrong that a person who goes too far in self-defence should be convicted of murder.

As regards the first recommendation, the Lords, in the teeth of Government opposition, appropriately amended the Criminal Justice Bill of 1991 to give effect to the recommendation by a majority of nearly 100, which included two former Lord Chancellors, the Lord Chief Justice, the Master of the Rolls, and five law lords; but the amendment was defeated in the Commons.

As regards the second recommendation, I proposed an appropriate amendment to the Criminal Justice and Public Order Bill of 1994, but the Government so firmly resisted it that there was no purpose in dividing the House.

It is much to be regretted that the Government continues, at least until now (report, January 25), to fail to show the courage of its convictions, as described in the Government White Paper published in 1990 entitled *Crime, Justice, and Protecting the Public*, where the Government stated that its main aim was:

To ensure that convicted criminals in England and Wales are punished justly and suitably according to the seriousness of their offences.

Yours faithfully,  
ACKNER,  
House of Lords,  
January 25.

## Use of X-rays

From Mr Timothy Palarm

Sir, Your report on the excessive use of ionising radiation in radiology departments ("Excess of needless X-rays put patients in danger", January 18) will affect the public's perception of diagnostic radiographers.

There is no one more concerned than radiographers about unnecessary irradiation. We constantly strive to reduce patient dose by questioning medical practitioners' justifications for X-ray (often to no avail), as the radiograph does not always provide additional diagnostic information.

The onus for reduction in patient dose lies solely with the referring clinician. The report of the Audit Commission has identified a need to educate doctors in X-ray referrals.

Yours etc,  
TIMOTHY PALARM  
(Lecturer in diagnostic radiography, University of Portsmouth),  
1 Beech Avenue, Bitterne Park, Southampton, Hampshire.

## Measles vaccines

From Miss Joyce Ambrose

Sir, I was amazed to read (report, January 17) that nearly three million doses of measles vaccine remain unused. Could not these vaccines be donated to Third World countries?

Having worked a number of years in Central Africa as a trained registered nurse and seen the devastation caused by measles — the terrible suffering and eventual death of so many children — the donation of the measles vaccines would be a godsend.

Yours sincerely,  
JOYCE L. AMBROSE,  
57 Haglane Copse, Pennington, Lymington, Hampshire.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

### Religious broadcasting on Radio 4

From the Head of Religious Broadcasting, BBC

Sir, Radio 4's *Morning Service* is not regarded as an "optional feature" of the Sunday schedule (report and leading article, January 20). The decision to replace it with a four-week series in February, *Were You There?*, is intended to complement our commitment to church worship by offering listeners a different pattern of broadcast worship.

*Were You There?* is far more than the "religious affairs discussion programme" your report describes. It is based on listeners' experiences and reflects on these to lead up to a central element of worship and meditation.

This will be the second series of *Were You There?* which has run in the *Morning Service* slot. The first ran for six weeks during Lent last year. We received over 500 letters from people who enjoyed the programme, and only 23 letters of complaint.

*Morning Service* attracts well over a million listeners, making it one of the most popular Sunday programmes, and it will continue to be a fixture on Radio 4. By occasionally varying from tradition, we hope to broaden the choice and content of our religious programming.

Yours etc,  
ERNEST REA,  
Head of Religious Broadcasting, BBC,  
BBC North,  
New Broadcasting House,  
PO Box 27, Oxford Road, Manchester,  
January 20.

From Mr Paul Hamilton

Sir, Radio 4's decision to suspend *Morning Service* during February and replace it with a programme partially of debate makes me breathe a deep sigh of relief. While appreciating that this slot is important for many housebound people, we should also recognise that there is hardly a shortage of electronic worship on Sunday mornings.

As a full-time parish evangelist in the Church of England I cringe every time Radio 4 and other broadcasters bombard us with images of Christianity that are outdated and in massive decline. Of course there is a place for the traditional act of worship as long as people find it helpful, but traditional hymns played on the organ interspersed with liturgy are a very small part of the picture of today's church and should be reflected thus in today's religious broadcasts.

Every time my colleague and I baptise someone's baby or welcome a newcomer into the church, they are surprised that they actually enjoy our worship.

I hope that *Morning Service's* February break enables it to reflect a fuller picture of the Christian church in the UK.

Yours faithfully,  
PAUL HAMILTON  
(Parish evangelist),  
The Parish Church of  
St Paul, Hainault,  
Arrowsmith Road, Chigwell, Essex,  
January 20.

### Democracy, regions and devolution

From Councillor Sir Jeremy Beecham, Chairman of the Association of Metropolitan Authorities

Sir, Scotland has long had its own legal, educational and local government system. Its case for devolution, including a measure of legislative devolution, is unanswerable.

Nobody is suggesting legislative devolution in England nor the creation of regional parliaments. Nor is the Labour Party, pace Mr Tim Renton, MP (letter, January 18), suggesting regional assemblies "on top of... district councils and county councils".

What is required is to democratise the invisible regional government now carried on by civil servants, boards and quangos appointed by, and answerable only to, ministers.

The creation of regional councils forces but one part of Labour's constitutional reform agenda designed to enhance individual and community rights, to reflect subsidiarity, and to render more responsive what is now the most centralised and least accountable Government in the European Union.

Yours faithfully,  
JEREMY BEECHAM,  
Chairman,  
Association of Metropolitan Authorities,  
35 Great Smith Street,  
Westminster, SW1,  
January 18.

From Mr Roger Dobson

Sir, Mr Major is vague when he says devolution might destroy the Union or "place Scotland against Scotland" (report, January 18). The answer can only be, "So what?"

He could explain that if five million Scots want a parliament in Edinburgh that would enable 50 million English to regain nationhood in their old Parliament at Westminster.

If England then wishes to give the ten million northern folk an element of control for themselves, or the 20 million folk of the South East the same, so be it.

Yours,  
ROGER DOBSON,  
7 Munro Drive, Edinburgh 13,  
January 13.

### 'Posture' photos

From Mr Tom Griffiths

Sir, Your report (January 16) that thousands of America's Establishment learnt with horror that they had been "tricked" into posing naked at Ivy League universities for "posture photos" by E. A. Hooton and W. H. Sheldon from the 1940s to the 1960s.

Sheldon originated terms such as "ectomorphic" and "endomorphic" which have passed into the English language, and may be found in dictionaries and in books by Aldous Huxley and C. P. Snow.

While the *Encyclopaedia Britannica* states that his conclusions were looked upon with some doubt, it adds that "his technique met the requirements of logic and scientific method". As your report states, he directed the Columbia University Institute for Physique Studies, hardly a disreputable post.

What evidence is there that he "tricked" anybody?

Yours faithfully,  
TOM GRIFFITHS,  
Flat 3, Victoria Court,  
Victoria Road,  
Shoreham-by-Sea, West Sussex.

Sports letters, page 39

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782 5046.

### Plight of war-torn Chechen republic

From Mr Charles Tchokotoua

Sir, I hope you will allow me space in your columns to thank the media in general — newspapers, periodicals and television — for their extensive and sympathetic coverage of the tragedy still unfolding in Chechnia. I have been met with unfailing politeness and have been much heartened by the interest shown.

Judging by the letters I am receiving, there appears to be also much support from the people of this country who, thanks to the media, have been watching the horrors vividly depicted on their television screens and reading the tragic details daily in their newspapers.

I should like to thank them all, and the Post Office who have managed to deliver mail despite an incomplete address.

In sharp contrast is the attitude of the British Government.

My letter of January 13 to the Prime Minister, urging a peaceful solution, has remained unacknowledged, and my efforts to contact the Foreign Office, to put the Chechen case, have been met with silence — telephone calls unreturned.

Up to the present day 30,000 Chechens have been killed or wounded.

Yours faithfully,  
CHARLES TCHOKOTOUA  
(Chechen Ambassador at Large to the EEC),  
77 The Street, SW3,  
January 24.

### Theatre changes

From Mr Iain Mackintosh

Sir, The present theatre at the Royal Opera House Covent Garden (Focus, January 12) is not the third but the sixth. Each of the six had a totally new auditorium which comprised nothing of its predecessor. To categorise theatres by their facades would be particularly inappropriate at Covent Garden, where the first to have any facade at all was the fourth.

The dates and architects are: 1732 Edward Shepherd; 1782 Inigo Richards; 1892 Henry Holland; 1899 Robert Smirke; 1874 Benedict Albano; and 1888 Edward Barry. In intervening years there have been many alterations, like the removal in 1901 of ten feet of Barry's forestage which Jonathan Miller is currently but temporarily replacing, but none have constituted a new theatre as have the six which started with either gutting the building or levelling the site.

It is a modern idea to venerate theatre auditoria that don't work. Benjamin Wyatt saw his 1812 auditorium judged unsatisfactory by the profession and totally rebuilt by Samuel Beazley after only ten years, while it has taken half a dozen major alterations to get Elizabeth Scott's Stratford theatre of 1932 to work well. It is therefore all the more important to cherish those that do work, like the sixth Covent Garden.

As one with a hand in three new music theatres last year (Glyndebourne, Edinburgh and Huddersfield) but not involved in the ROH, I warmly commend the admirable revised proposals of the architects, Jeremy Dixon and Ed Jones, to the National Lottery Board and hope for an early start on site, perhaps to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the commissioning of Richard Pildrow by John Tooley in 1973 for the first of the present generation's development studies.

Yours sincerely,  
IAIN MACKINTOSH (Director),  
Theatre Projects Consultants,  
3 Apollo Studios,  
Charlton Kings Road, NW5,  
January 16.

### HMS Caroline

From Mr John Hinton

Sir, Thanks to John Young's report (January 19) we are reminded that only one ship, HMS Caroline, remains of Jack Fisher's Grand Fleet.

With the 80th anniversary of Jutland due next year, surely plans should be made to rescue Caroline from her present obscurity and put her on proud show, with adequate alternative quarters being provided for Belfast RNR. It would be careless beyond belief — an insult to our maritime tradition and the facts of recent history — not to do so.

Would anyone not too busy trying to repatriate the bones of Sir Francis Drake like to form "The Friends of Caroline"?

Sincerely,  
JOHN HINTON,  
64 Pont Street, SW1,  
January 24.

### Hard to stomach?

From Mr R. E. W. Ridley

Sir, I have just heard our teacher, who is Scottish, attempt to explain, in Mandarin Chinese, the construction of a haggis (letter, January 24) to an evening language class containing a Belgian, a Bulgarian, a Burmese, a Frenchwoman, a New Zealander and three or four Britons. Might this be an indicator of what lies in store if devolution is ever achieved?

Yours faithfully,  
R. E. W. RIDLEY,  
The Old Vicarage,  
Dinnington, Newcastle upon Tyne,  
January 24.







**COMMANDER GRAHAM de CHAIR**

**W. D'ARCY HART**



... was, he headed on days later The Times because of the length ... necessary to leave passages.

Aunts, My Brothers and ... by the of moreover particularly of mercy upon my Sister, who have so support them with his ... and as long as they world ... forgive me all the evils ... as she may be loving sentiments against

... should he ever have ... consider that he ... to the happiness of he ought to forget all

... After expressing his gratitude to all who had faithfully offered him kindness and support and who, for fear of impertinently the King he fears he must not immediately name, the safety means his wishes as to the disposal of "my elaborate books, watch, my purse and other little articles."

In his closing words the King states:

"I pardon most heartily those who guarded me the ill-usage and restraint which they thought it was their duty to adopt towards me. I have found some tender and compassionate friends: may they enjoy in their hearts that tranquillity which their mode of thinking always bestows."

"I conclude declaring before God and at the eye of appearing before him that I repudiate no one with the crimes they have committed against me."

Given at the Tower of the Temple the 25th of December 1792

(Signed)

"LOUIS,  
And written by Beauvauv, Municipal Officer."



## Two specialists launch international hotel guides

THE best international hotel guides for business travellers have been launched this week from the leading specialist business-travel agencies, American Express and Carlson Wagonlit.

The 1995 Amex Worldwide Select Hotel Guide includes 3,200 hotels in more than 800 business cities, while the Carlson Wagonlit guide lists 1,700 preferred hotels, which have a total of more than 8,000 properties worldwide.

Both groups claim that they can offer special rates for their clients of up to 40 per cent off the "normal" corporate rate charged by hotels, based on bulk paying of hotel rooms and special offers.

Typical savings will, however, be much lower. Many business travellers believe the guides' main usefulness is providing a listing of business class hotels in various cities as well as a rough guide to prices. Better deals can sometimes be found at certain times by calling hotels direct.

The rival business travel agency Hogg Robinson has decided against producing a guide this year, relying instead on quoting specific prices for clients. Both the Amex and Carlson Wagonlit guides are available from their agency outlets.

CNN International has also published a guide in those hotels which carry the CNN news service, essential for business travellers keen to catch up on news from home. The guide also doubles as a list of major business hotels in European cities. Details: 0171-637 6700.

### Hotel bonus

LAST-MINUTE discounts on London hotel beds are available from a new service for tourists who are prepared to stay at a hotel chosen by its grading rather than by name.

The company offering the service, London Hotels - Discounted Reservations, claims that it can achieve savings of up to 60 per cent on hotel rooms in the capital by taking advantage of empty rooms made available at the last minute.

"We act as a clearing house for empty beds," says the chairman, Brian Duffy.

### ROOM SERVICE

who also owns three small London hotels. Customers can book a room at one of 40 hotels, ranging from bed and breakfast to four-star properties, with prices from £17.63 to £49.35 a night, up to three days in advance.

When the booking is confirmed, the customer is told the name of the hotel. Details from travel agents, Teletext page 269, or direct on 0171-454 5000.

**Lucky Pat**  
LATEST hotel gimmick comes from Etrop Grange, the country house hotel which overlooks Manchester



Is that a blessing... or two more Guinness?

Airport's new Terminal 2. If your name is Patrick or George, Patricia or Georgina, you can celebrate your Saint's Day (March 17 or April 23, respectively) with one free meal when booking a table for four in the hotel's restaurant. Details: 061-499 0500.

### Small wonder

THE Small Luxury Hotels of the World marketing consortium yesterday launched its 1995 directory of 128 member hotels around the world, including properties in Denmark and Kenya for the first time.

Those requesting the 208-page directory also qualify for special offers when book-

ing a hotel, including free champagne, room upgrades, bathrobes and a birthday or wedding anniversary cake. Details: 0372-375116.

Another new hotel guide this week comes from the Pride of Britain marketing consortium of 30 upmarket privately-owned hotels in the UK, along with the Royal Scotsman train and Hebridean Princess cruise ship.

The consortium is this year targeting the small conference and incentive market as well as its traditional leisure customers. Details: 0264-736604.

### Happy return

WEEKEND guests at Copthorne Hotels in the UK and continental Europe can take advantage of a special "boomerang" deal until the end of April. Return to any of the hotels and pay just £44.50 per person for two nights, a saving of about 30 per cent on the normal weekend break.

Copthorne is also offering a special introductory rate of £48 a night at its new hotel at Coquelles, Calais, adjacent to the Channel Tunnel terminal. The hotel is also giving a £2.40 discount for every £48 worth of goods bought from the local hypermarket. Details: 0800-414 741.

### Brand change

THE beleaguered hotels group Queens Moat Houses, which recently announced a financial restructuring of its £2 billion debts to the banks, is rebranding its UK hotels to give customers a clearer idea of what they can expect. From April, it will give a new corporate identity to its 44 Moat House properties, three-star hotels with more than 100 bedrooms each targeted at business travellers.

They will also include new business centres offering laptop computers, fax machines and secretarial services. The remaining 39 UK hotels will be rebranded as County Hotels. This is the name which Forte had planned to use for a group of 80 of its hotels; now it has decided to brand these as White Hart hotels.

DAVID CHURCHILL



Hailed as a holiday destination: Ulverston, whose museum contains a collection of Laurel and Hardy memorabilia

## Lake District winner

A "forgotten" area on the fringes of the Lake District, within which lies the town where Stan Laurel was born, has been named Holiday Destination of the Year.

The Furness and Cartmel peninsulas, on the southern edge of Cumbria, fought off competition from the country's best-known resorts to win the award from the English Tourist Board yesterday.

The National Trust, celebrating its centenary this year, won the award for its outstanding contribution to English tourism, while visitor attraction of the year went to Warwick Castle, which recently underwent an extensive refurbishment.

Tim Rogers, manager of tourism for Furness and Cartmel, said he was delighted with the award for the region, which includes the submarine-building town of Barrow-in-Furness; Ulverston, whose museum contains a collection of Laurel and Hardy memorabilia; the classic Edwardian resort town of Grange-over-Sands; and a number of

### Marianne Curphey on a northern town that launched a screen legend

rarely-visited areas of countryside, lakes and farms.

Furness and Cartmel Tourism was set up less than three years ago when a division was made between the homeports of Coniston, Windermere, Ambleside, and Grasmere, and the quieter peninsula across the water from Morecambe.

Mr Rogers said: "We recognised the economy of the area needed help - unemployment was high, shipbuilding was in decline, and Grange-over-Sands, once an extremely popular resort, had been losing visitors since the trend towards overseas holidays began in the 1950s and 1960s."

A marketing plan was established to promote the area which included building new attractions and creating jobs. In 1993 four new attractions opened - Heron Glass, a glass-blowing workshop; the Dock Museum, a £2 million project built on the site of a

former dock; the South Lakes Wild Animal Park, which has 100 species of small birds and mammals; and the Motorbike Museum in Ulverston.

Mr Rogers said: "The response we had was very encouraging - we promoted the region both within the Lancashire area and across the country and as a result the Laurel and Hardy Museum saw visitor numbers soar to 20,000 - a 100 per cent increase where 50 per cent was targeted. Bookings for some hotels and guesthouses rose by 10 per cent."

Mr Rogers added: "We were the forgotten corner of the Lake District. The main tourist areas and lakes became extremely popular in the summer but we had very few visitors. We do not have the large lakes but we have a beautiful coastline and picturesque farms."

Furness and Cartmel Tourism was established in May 1992 and is a partnership between the public and private sectors. Its main funding comes from the department of trade and industry, the ETB, the Rural Development Commission and councils, and local businesses.

Now in their seventh year, the England for Excellence Awards were created by the ETB to reward companies and individuals, whatever the scale of their business, which are leading the way in quality.

Hotel of the Year went to the Linthwaite House Hotel in Bowness-on-Windermere, which offers romantic and Beatrix Potter breaks. Bed and breakfast of the year was won by the renovated Pickett House Country Guest House in the Buttermere Valley, near Cockermouth, Cumbria.

Snibston Discovery Park in Coalville, Leicestershire, won the Tourism For All award. The park is located in an area badly affected by recent mine closures. Facilities there were developed in consultation with local disabled people.

## Oz throws a giant party

### British flock to Australia

MILLIONS of Australians across the world are today celebrating the modern creation of their country. *Marianne Curphey writes* A public holiday - Australia Day - begins with the formal raising of the national flag, and new citizens are officially welcomed to the country. The day commemorates the landings of Captain Arthur Phillip and his fleet of 11 British ships, carrying the first European settlers, Sydney Cove in 1788.

British tour operators, meanwhile, are cashing in on the British fascination with the other side of the world. A trip to Australia was once considered the holiday of a lifetime, and one that involved saving for a decade. But recent low air fares have made the country accessible to the masses. In April, the first package holidays for less than £600 went on sale.

Airtours, one of Britain's biggest tour operators, announced the cheaper deals after the Australian government agreed new charter flights from London and Manchester.

Airtours offers flights and two nights' accommodation from £499 an adult or £599 for 14 nights' accommodation in Sydney, and the 22-hour charter flights involve refuelling stops in the United Arab Emirates and Singapore. Richard Carrick, the marketing director of Airtours, describes Australia as "on a high as a destination".

Austravel (0171-734 7755) offers return flight only for £499; a Qantas (0345-747 767) return to Sydney is £1,245 and a two-week package with Airtours (0706-212 888), visiting Sydney and the Gold Coast, is £799.

Travelbag (0171-497 0515) has return flights to Australia on Malaysian Airlines until the end of March for £875, and STA Travel (071-937 9962) is offering a return up to March 15 on Japan Airlines for £599. The price includes a stop-off and a night's accommodation in Tokyo.

The Australian Tourist Commission (0181-780 3227) says that New South Wales is the state that attracts the most visitors. But beware, availability before April is limited.

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## The high price of cheap holidays

How the competition for bookings could damage host countries

At many high-street travel agencies, the windows are still plastered with price cuts and offers to parents to take their children free on summer package holidays.

Through the post-Christmas discounts failed to stimulate the market as much as hoped, there is now a hint that buyers are cautiously returning. It is by no means a rush, however. One leading travel agent said this week: "We are selling about as many holidays as we did this time last year, but it is going to be a long, hard winter."

They remain convinced that by the end of the summer record numbers of people will have travelled abroad, even if that means cutting prices in the short-term. However, a cut in price inevitably means a similar cut in costs. And since cost savings have to be passed on, where better to pass them to than foreign hoteliers?

They, in turn, have to accept even lower profit margins and that leads to lower wages for hotel staff, expenditure postponed and standards of food, accommodation and service pared to the very minimum that the customers will accept.

In the board-rooms of the big chains, the problems of a waiter in the Mediterranean who has been laid off so that a British family can save £20 on a package could hardly matter less. The same holds true in travel organisations from Bonn to Boston.

Governments also read official reports showing that tourism is booming around the world, and they, too, want their market share.

Often states are encouraged to develop tourism by international bankers, who see receipts from foreign holidaymakers as a quick and easy way to balance the books, provided of course, that internal costs — and therefore prices — are kept to a minimum.

This combination of pressures enabled many countries in South-East Asia, for example, to increase the number of visitors by 10 per cent last year, while receipts from tourists went up by 5.1 per cent to \$321 billion (£24 billion).

Now governments from Peru to Pakistan are studying the figures and setting out to attract more European, Australian or American holidaymakers, who, apparently, are prepared to travel longer distances than ever before in search of somewhere

different to escape from the routine of home.

There has emerged, however, a growing concern by the smaller tour operators and among academics that this rate of growth simply cannot go on. Some people now argue that the rising tide of tourists could eventually swamp the host countries beneath waves of down-market bargain hunters, while others predict that the apparent economic benefits of tourism will prove to be illusory because visitors will have only one demand — low prices.

The boom in international travel has been fuelled by increased efficiency among those who sell holidays. They claim that, so far, this increased efficiency has been achieved by trimming unnecessary fat without cutting into the bone. But there are signs that the joint has been stripped of all its meat and it is doubtful whether many more cuts can be made without seriously lowering standards.

People, however, must be allowed to move freely and exploit the advantages of high-speed mass transport. It can provide tens of millions with the chance of experiencing other cultures, even though most of them will prefer to lie on some sandy beach. That is what consumer choice is all about.

Some 528 million separate trips were made from one country to another last year, 3 per cent more than in 1993. Over the past decade the number of travellers has doubled. All the signs are that the trend will go on increasing — but for how long?

So long as the travel industry and the host countries go on introducing ever lower prices in an effort to maintain their own market share, the rate of growth will increase.

Should it be curbed? If so, should the world's travel industry be made responsible for controlling that growth? Or are those who even raise the subject worrying unnecessarily? Perhaps the market will, indeed, prove all powerful and demand will simply choke itself to death. Ideally these are questions which governments should tackle. They won't, of course.

It would be of some small help, therefore, if everyone who booked a holiday at least thought about the consequences that lie beyond that garish poster and tempting price tag.



The Travel Business  
HARVEY ELLIOTT

# Introducing Mr Savoy

The new boss of London's most famous hotel starts his quiet revolution with two 'for sale' notices. David Churchill reports

The first signs of the reshaping of the Savoy Group of hotels and restaurants in the wake of the appointment of Ramon Pajares, its new managing director, have emerged with the sale of the Savoy's luxury 66-room Hotel Lancaster in Paris, which is expected to be announced early next month.

Mr Pajares confirmed this week that the sale of the Lancaster would go ahead after the decision by the Savoy board to invest in refurbishment of its London luxury hotels. These include the Berkeley, the Courtyard, Claridge's and the Savoy itself, and the Lygon Arms in Broadway, Worcestershire.

The "for sale" sign has also gone up on the Savoy's £300-a-night health spa at Forest Mere, in Liphook, Hampshire, which Mr Pajares has decided no longer fits in with his plans for the group. But he said that there was no intention to sell the group's restaurants, which include Simpson's-in-the-Strand, Wilton's and Grill St Quentin. The move to slim down the Savoy Group to concentrate on core hotels and restaurants after the appointment of 59-year-old Mr Pajares last November has led to a number of senior management leaving the group. Last week the finance director Rowland Leigh, who joined the group in 1988 as company secretary, announced his resignation.

Mr Pajares was recruited to run the group after Giles Shepard, the former managing director, was ousted in a row involving his opposition to Pajares' attempts to gain a greater control in the running of the company. For the past decade Pajares, who owns 70 per cent of the Savoy's now-voting shares but a minority of the voting stock, has struggled to gain full control.

Pajares has argued that the Savoy Group has failed to make the most of its reputation and assets, although in the first half of last year, Savoy produced interim pre-tax profits of £575,000 against a loss of £1.75 million in the first half of 1993.

Travel agents are committing a criminal offence by advertising bargain holidays that are no longer available, trading standards officers have said. Prosecutions are likely to follow, they say, unless the travel industry improves on the result of a recent survey which showed that more than a fifth of advertised bargain holidays were already sold out.

Officers visited 42 travel agents in Mid-Glamorgan, south Wales, and selected holidays at random from cards and posters in the windows. Of 122 holidays, 28 were not available.

In some cases, when officers returned a second time, the unavailable holidays were still being advertised.

"The results were not good," Alan Miles, a trading standards officer, said. "Advertising something that does not exist can be a criminal offence, and is certainly bad business practice."

Officers say the main problem is

Even now, however, Forte still has only two directors, including Sir Rocco Forte, on the nine-strong Savoy board.

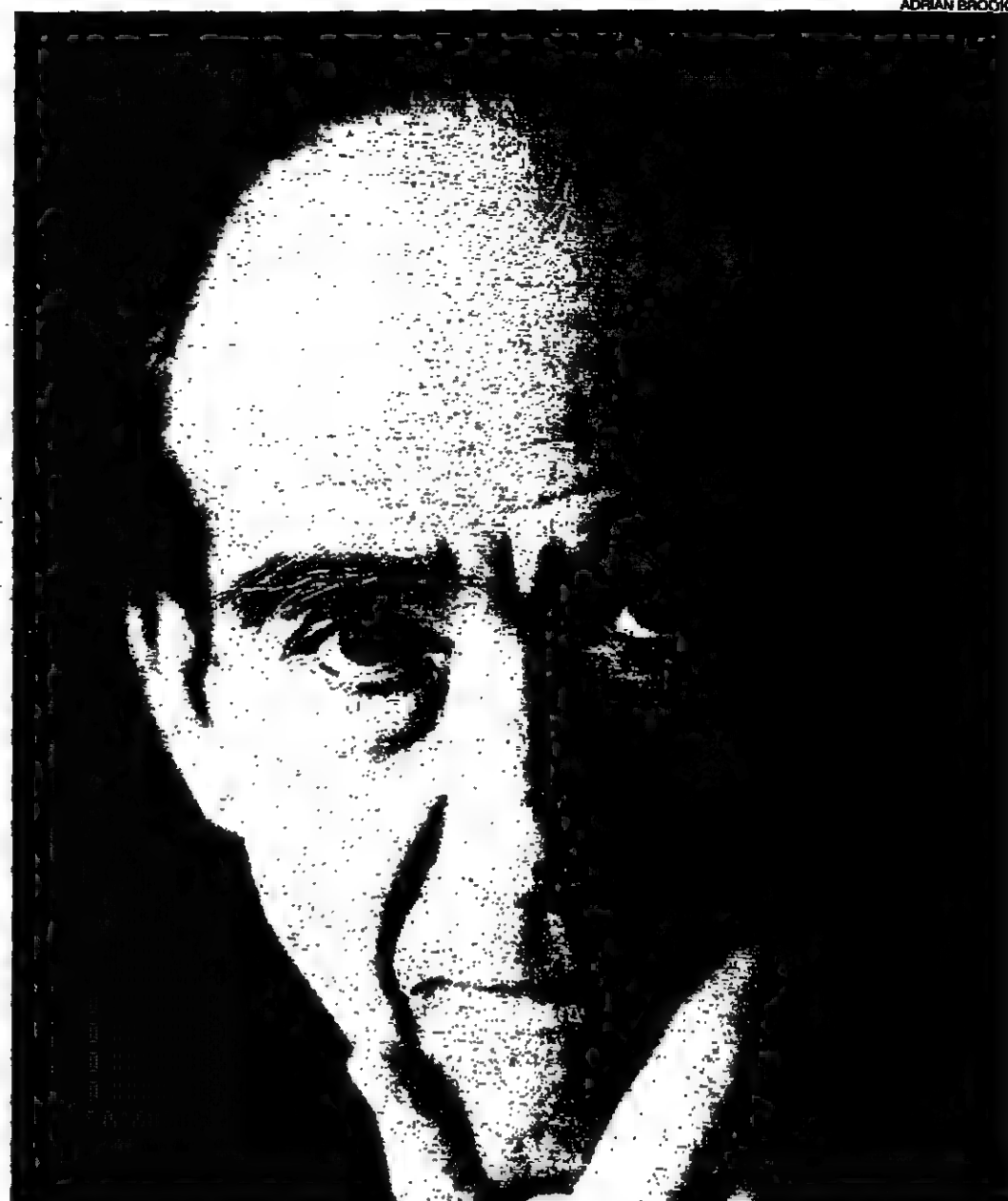
Mr Pajares insists he is "not a political person", yet he acknowledges that the long years of dispute between Forte and the Savoy, allied to recessionary problems, "left people in some of the hotels desperate for leadership and a clear indication of where they were heading".

As a result, one of his first moves when taking over was to meet all staff to explain his plans. "I believe that it is very important to communicate with staff," he says. A quarterly staff meeting has now been introduced and a new "human resources" department is being set up.

Mr Pajares, who is Spanish-born, was headhunted from London's Four Seasons hotel, formerly the Inn On The Park, for which he worked for almost 25 years, and which next Monday celebrates its silver jubilee. During this time he turned it into London's most profitable hotel with the highest occupancy levels in the capital. "It was a wrench to leave," he says. "The only group I would have left for was the Savoy." He insists, too, that he did not join the Savoy to preside over a lowering of standards or a lessening of the group's high reputation for service. "I would be very foolish to in any way reduce our standards," he says. In fact, the group will be improving its service in certain ways: the hotels, for example, will shortly become the first in London to offer a twice-daily laundry and dry-cleaning service usually offered by hotels.

The funds raised from the sale of the Lancaster and Forest Mere will be used to invest in behind-the-scenes improvements, by improving facilities such as air-conditioning and by carrying out a general refurbishment. The Savoy and Claridge's are deemed most in need of funds to smarten up their appearance.

Who needs chocolates on the pillow at night?



Ramon Pajares, managing director of the Savoy group of hotels and restaurants critical approach

He also believes that the hotels can cut out considerable waste in their operations. "We are not running the business as we should be in the interests of staff or customers if resources are being wasted," he says. He is introducing joint buying of goods and services for the hotels to replace the previous system, which allowed each hotel to negotiate its own deals.

Mr Pajares intends to take a critical approach to "extras" offered in rooms, believing that they must enhance the value to the guest. "I'm not very keen, for example, about leaving chocolates on the pillows at night, since I don't believe people really want to eat a chocolate just before going to sleep," he says.

A five-year plan for the group — which is likely to be unveiled this May — will be the next step in his rebuilding of the Savoy's fortunes. "All staff will," he says, "know exactly where we are going and what is expected of them."

Mr Pajares is bemused at the new nickname he has reportedly earned at the Savoy of "Ramon Pajamas", believing this to be a media invention. At the Four Seasons, however, he was known as "Papa" by staff because of his time spent with the hotel. His three children all work in the hospitality industry, with one daughter already employed by Claridge's before his arrival.

"To that end many of our members are now date-stamping the cards on which late bargain holidays are advertised. I do not think that it is a question of travel agents seeking to take advantage. It is simply a function of the rapidity with which holidays are sold these days. "If an operator has ten holidays to sell at a bargain price, those may be being advertised simultaneously by up to 7,000 agents around the country. One could be selling the holiday, while others are still writing out their cards."

ROBIN YOUNG

## Does the offer still exist?

More than a fifth of advertised holidays were already sold

that travel agents do not bother to check regularly enough the computerised information provided by the tour operators.

"As a very minimum," Mr Miles said, "agents should check once a day and remove any advertisements immediately they know that the holidays have already been fully booked."

Alex Woolfall, a spokesman for the Association of British Travel Agents, said: "We are aware of trading standards officers checking on this, and we have warned our members of the need to show due diligence in ensuring that there is a reasonable chance of being able to sell the holidays that are advertised in their displays."

Robin Young

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### Late deal

CRESTA Holidays (0161-926 9999) offers savings of up to £80 on half-term self-drive holidays. The offer applies to February 11 departures to Avoriaz, Les Arcs and La Plagne.

Prices are from £675 for a week's rental of a studio apartment which sleeps two to four in Avoriaz (saving £114) and includes a return Rams-gate-Dunkirk ferry for car and passengers. An apartment sleeping up to seven costs £1,115, a saving of £180.

### Five for four

FIVE nights for the price of four are available from Countrywide Holidays (0161-244 2855) throughout February. The £99 offer, which includes guesthouse accommodation and all meals, can be taken up at the company's three Lake District locations — Ambleside, Borrowdale and Grasmere — plus Fowey and Porlock in the West Country and Hope in the Peaks.

### Festival time

A FESTIVAL of sport and culture has been organised in Barbados during March and April for clients of Caribbean Connections.

Any of the tour operator's clients who stay on the island for a minimum seven nights are eligible for an evening at the opera, complimentary tickets to the one-day cricket international between West Indies and Australia, a visit to the racetrack, and a rum distillery. Prices start at £87 a person for seven nights' bed and breakfast, including return flights.

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**UPDIKE AND THE PROBLEM OF MASCULINITY**  
BOOKS 36, 37

# THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

THURSDAY JANUARY 26 1995



Peter George, left, and David Sainsbury yesterday announced the sale of Ladbrooke's 241 DIY stores to Sainsbury's, giving its Homebase chain national coverage at a stroke

## Sainsbury acquires Texas for £290m

By Susan Gilchrist

**J SAINSBURY**, Britain's biggest supermarket chain, yesterday confirmed it has agreed to buy the Texas Homecare chain from Ladbrooke for £290 million in cash. The deal, which has been widely expected, will transform Homebase, Sainsbury's chain, into the country's second largest DIY retailer behind Kingfisher's B&Q. David Sainsbury, chairman, said the acquisition of the 241 Texas stores would provide national coverage at half the cost of organic expansion. Texas has already earmarked 40 stores for closure and Sainsbury has identified a further 15 sites which will be closed due to geographic overlap with Homebase's 82 outlets. Mr Sainsbury refused to be drawn on the scale of job losses among Texas' 11,500 employees but it is expected to run into the hundreds. Sainsbury will spend £50 million converting the stores to the Homebase format. Some analysts were surprised that Sainsbury had agreed to buy the entire chain rather than select the best sites. One retail analyst said: "We would have preferred to have seen Sainsbury cherry-pick more rigorously. However, it is a reasonably good deal although they obviously did not put a gun to Ladbrooke's head." Texas is a casualty of the intense competition in the £10 billion DIY market. It expects operating profits of just £8 million for 1994 on sales of £457 million. Homebase is one of the most profitable chains achieving margins of about 8 per cent. Mr Sainsbury believes the group can lift Texas' margins to the same level within a few years. He was confident that an era of steady growth had now returned.

## BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES			
FT-SE 100	5262.2	(+13.2)	
Yield	4.34%		
FT-SE All share	1476.59	(+4.11)	
Nikkei	18159.48	(+98.75)	
Dow Jones	3877.17	(+14.47)	
S&P Composite	467.11	(+1.25)	
US RATES			
Federal Funds	5 1/4%	(5 1/4%)	
Long Bond	9 3/4%	(9 3/4%)	
Yield	7.82%	(7.82%)	
LONDON MONEY			
3-mth Interbank	6 1/4%	(6 1/4%)	
Life long call	100 1/2%	(100 1/2%)	
Future (Mar)			
FTSE 100			
New York	1.5888	(1.5870)	
London	1.0881	(1.0885)	
DM	2.4154	(2.4141)	
FF	3.3550	(3.3550)	
Yen	168.70	(169.05)	
£ Index	80.1	(80.2)	
DOLLAR			
London	1.5188	(1.5188)	
FF	5.2485	(5.2485)	
Yen	127.55	(127.55)	
£ Index	80.80	(80.76)	
£ Index	82.6	(82.6)	
Tokyo close Yen 88.85			
NORTH SEA OIL			
Brent 15-day (Apr)	\$16.80	(\$16.70)	
WTI			
London close	\$381.85	(\$381.25)	
* denotes midday trading price			

## Lenders fear more defaults on houses

By Sara McConnell

MORE homeowners face having their homes repossessed next year if the Government implements its plan to cut income support for mortgage interest payments, lenders said. The warning comes as Labour prepares to call on the Government to withdraw its proposals in a Commons debate today. Donald Dewar, Shadow Social Security Secretary, will argue cutting income support will lead to more repossessions, "already running at an unacceptably high level" and depress the housing market. Announcing repossession figures yesterday, the Council of Mortgage Lenders said cutting income support would reverse a downward trend in the number of homes repossessed and borrowers more than three months behind with payments. CML figures show 49,210 borrowers were repossessed in 1994, the lowest since 1990, compared with 58,540 in 1993. A total of 419,890 borrowers were three months or more behind with their loans, down from 510,090 in 1993. Lenders could not afford to be complacent about figures, which showed nearly 1,000 people a week were still being repossessed, said Adrian Coles, Director-General of the Council of Mortgage Lenders. But he added: "As a consequence of the proposed changes [to income support], mortgage arrears will rise and possessions are likely to increase in 1996. This is the inevitable conclusion to be drawn from the fact that less support will be available to mortgage borrowers if they get into difficulties."

## Post Office managers expect policy U-turn

By Philip Bassett, Industrial Editor

POST OFFICE leaders believe the Government is likely to make new proposals for Britain's postal services, although the Government yesterday publicly rejected giving the corporation greater commercial freedom within public ownership. Michael Heseltine, President of the Board of Trade, declared his continuing commitment to the Post Office's privatisation, despite the Cabinet's decision to abandon attempts to sell it off in the face of strong Conservative backbench opposition. Giving evidence to the Commons

Trade and Industry Select Committee, he made it clear that he still thought privatisation was the only way forward for the Royal Mail and Parcelforce, the PO's carriage business. He said: "It is the solution that in the end will happen to Royal Mail, and then we will be amazed at the success it enjoys out in the world marketplace, and people will claim great credit for having thought of the idea." He said it was a tragedy that the Royal Mail had been prevented from being a world leader in the private sector like BT. Mr Heseltine insisted that the Government had reached no conclusions on the future of

the PO. However, evidence from the Treasury and the Department of Trade and Industry, reported earlier this week by *The Times* but published by the committee yesterday, clearly shows the Government rejecting the PO's repeated calls for greater commercial freedom as long as the PO is not privatised. The Treasury and the DTI said yesterday in their evidence: "The Government does not believe that it could responsibly give the business the far-reaching commercial freedoms it is seeking while it retains the very substantial advantages of public sector ownership."

However, senior Post Office managers believe Mr Heseltine clearly signalled that he would bring forward new proposals. They claim the PO is being damaged by the Government's failure to come up with a new financial framework for Britain's postal business. They took comfort from Mr Heseltine's interest in a proposal for the PO to be turned into a public limited company with the Government as the single shareholder and the company acting under the control of a new regulator. Mr Heseltine told MPs on the committee that the proposal, originally put forward by London Economics, which is headed by Bill Robinson, a former Treasury adviser,

would have the advantage of allowing a balance sheet to be struck for the PO which would distinguish between different parts of the business. He said: "It's on the agenda. It's something which I'm interested in the possibility of." Mike Heron, the Post Office chairman, put to the committee the corporation's new six-point plan for greater commercial freedom, which was reported separately in *The Times* earlier this week. He said it would allow the PO to plan ahead, develop strategically "and allow scope for the development of a culture of enterprise."

Pennington, page 25

## Barclays Bank near to sale of US mortgage subsidiary

By Patricia Tehan, Banking Correspondent

BARCLAYS BANK appears to be close to the sale of its troubled US mortgage servicing arm, in a deal valuing the business at about \$240 million. The bank is understood to have been talking to one firm, thought to be Norwest Corporation, the financial services company, which is based in Minneapolis, about the sale for several weeks. It is possible that a deal will be completed before the publication of Barclays' 1994 financial results at the beginning of March. Barclays American Mortgage, which services loans worth \$17 billion, has been in the bank's new US Transition operation since summer 1993. The new operation contains businesses that the bank considered non-core assets or

doubtful assets, such as BAM, poor corporate loans, and non-performing loans. The value of its mortgage servicing business had fallen from \$28 million in 1993. The creation of the US Transition operation followed a review of United States businesses after massive losses. In 1993 losses from businesses in the US Transition operation increased from \$123 million to \$575 million. BAM is paid fees for processing the mortgage books of other lenders. Its contribution to the US Transition losses last year was £236 million. It had run into problems when customers pulled out of fixed-rate mortgages after a fall in interest rates prompted them to refinance their loans and Barclays was forced to write off the value of its

servicing assets. The business is believed to have returned to profit last year. BAM returned to the black in the first half of last year with profits of £4 million. As interest rates have begun to increase, the prepayment of mortgages has slowed. This is a more receptive market for Barclays to find a buyer. The mortgage servicing business has not been seen as central to Barclays' new US strategy, which is managed by its BZW investment banking arm, providing corporate lending services alongside its capital markets business. Norwest has been building up its mortgage servicing business through acquisition. Its most recent was of Directors Mortgage, which is based in California.

## Hollinger fights Canadian taxman

By Robert Brehl, in Toronto

HOLLINGER, the Canadian holding company run by Conrad Black, which controls *The Telegraph*, is caught up in a multimillion-dollar battle with the Canadian tax authorities, court documents reveal. The affair could affect Canadian businesses seeking ways to lower their tax bills and may affect how the courts interpret Canadian tax legislation, tax experts say. In a test case due before the Tax Court of Canada in March, the Federal Government alleges that Hollinger entered into a "pre-arranged scheme" to avoid millions of dollars in taxes. Hollinger says that it was merely playing by the complicated rules of the Income Tax Act and doing nothing wrong. The action surrounds Hollinger's purchase, in 1986, for \$4 million, of three companies that it then closed and on which it claimed tax losses of more than \$50 million. Hollinger says that it was all legal. It bought a company by the rules and applied proper tax procedures. The Government alleges that Hollinger bent the rules to reduce its taxes. Hollinger was never the real owner of the companies it bought, but merely a registered owner for a few days, the Government argues. "Any change in ownership... was merely a change in legal ownership without any change in beneficial ownership," John Tait, Deputy Attorney General, has written to the tax court. (The Toronto Star)

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## Saatchi & Saatchi defectors discover a hoaxer on the line

## Mystery calls from slick operator

By Martin Walker, Deputy City Editor

THE gossip network in the advertising world, already overheated after the well-publicised split at the top of Saatchi & Saatchi, is heading for meltdown over talk of mysterious and possibly illegal late-night check calls to friends and relatives of one of the defectors.

The four men - Nick Hurrell, Moray MacLennan, Simon Dicketts and James Lowther - quit a couple of days after the departure of Bill Muirhead, Jeremy Sinclair and David Kershaw. Those three left Saatchi & Saatchi after the sacking of Maurice Saatchi, its founder and former chairman, and joined him at his new

agency. The four later defectors, who are working out their notice at home, will also join him in due course. "BT wouldn't need to fake a fault on your line and want your name and address, because we have that information already," said a spokeswoman. Whoever is making the calls could be guilty of a criminal offence if they are being done for commercial or financial advantage. One possible theory, that a crank has latched on to the publicity given to the defections and is making nuisance calls, can presumably be ruled out because he or she would not have access to such private phone numbers.



## Names' losses rise to £571m

By SARAH BAGNALL  
INSURANCE CORRESPONDENT

THOUSANDS of Lloyd's names heard yesterday that their losses had risen by £124 million, to £571 million, in 1994. The loss estimates relate to 14 Lloyd's syndicates, whose affairs have been managed by P&B Run-Off for the past six months. They were formerly operated by John Polard, RJ Bromley (Underwriting Agencies) and Spratt & White.

The hardest-hit names are on syndicates 105/106/109 and 475/743. Losses of the non-marine syndicate 105/106/109 for the 1985 year of account are put at 399 per cent, equal to £95 million. This compares with the £23.8 million names invested and is £15.3 million worse than estimates a year ago.

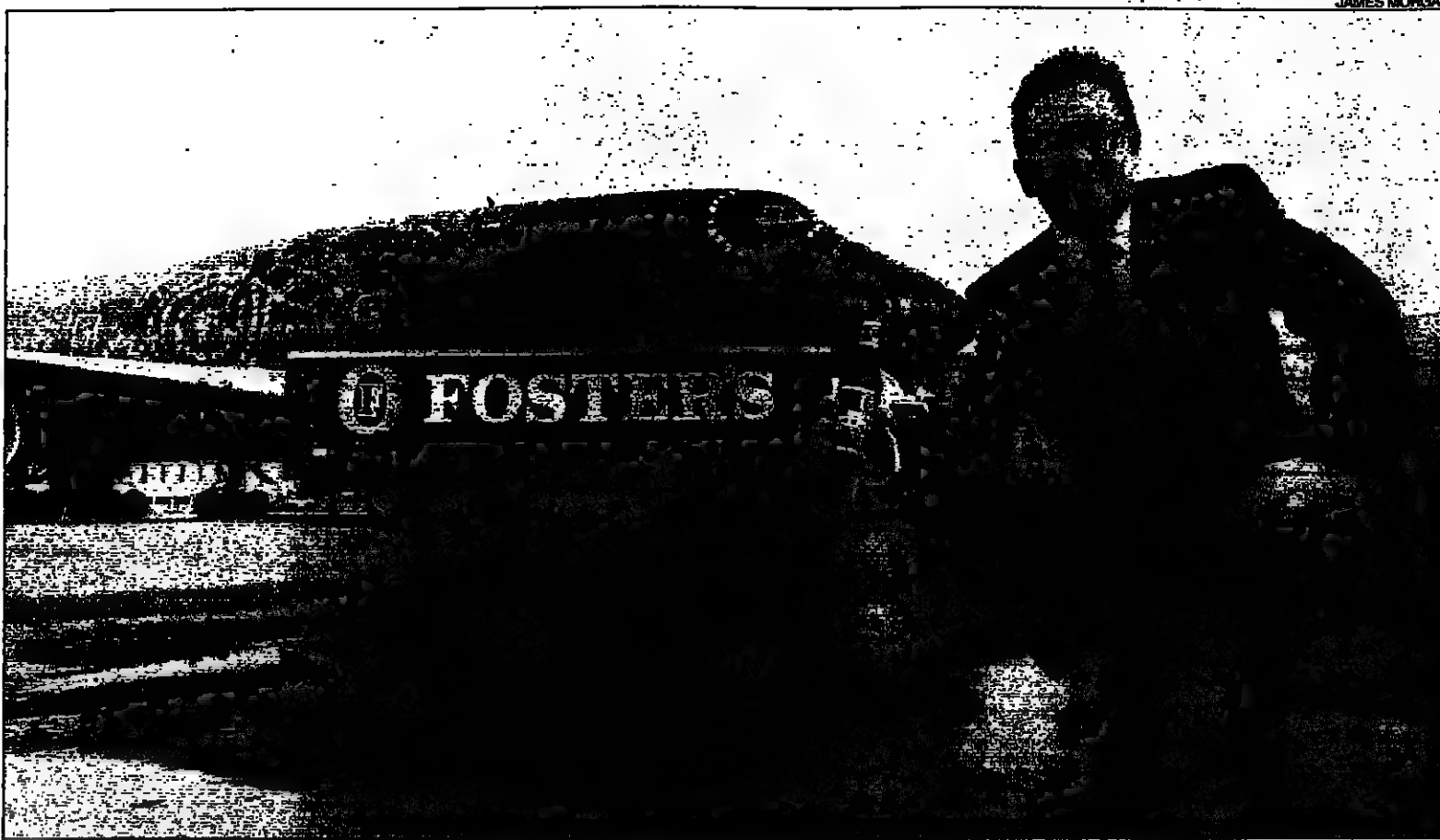
Syndicate 475/743 losses for the 1989 underwriting year are estimated at 350 per cent of stamp capacity of £25.5 million, equal to £89.3 million. The syndicate's former underwriter, Roy Bromley, committed suicide in January 1993. Its losses for the 1990 and 1991 years are estimated at £30.2 million and £21.1 million.

The worst decline was marine syndicate 711/713 in 1991. Loss estimates have risen by 70 per cent, to £8.9 million, against £2.6 million invested.

### TOURIST RATES

	Bank	Bank
	Buy	Sell
Australia \$	2.17	2.00
Austria Sch	17.94	16.44
Belgium F	36.86	34.44
Canada C	2.36	2.20
Cyprus Cyp	2.78	2.72
Denmark Kr	8.11	7.61
France F	6.55	6.11
Germany M	2.50	2.36
Greece Dr	340.00	317.00
Hong Kong \$	10.58	9.88
Italy Lit	1.08	1.00
Japan Yen	360.00	347.00
Malta M	173.00	162.00
Netherlands Gld	2.02	1.92
Norway Kr	11.18	10.52
Portugal Esc	200.00	187.00
S. Africa R	217.50	203.00
Spain Ptas	166.64	156.00
Sweden Kr	12.48	11.88
Switzerland F	2.16	2.02
Turkey Lira	99.40	93.40
USA \$	1.81	1.71

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates are at close of trading yesterday.



Reflections: John Nicholson, director of marketing at Courage, stands by to launch Europe's largest beer promotion. As part of the £5 million Foster's campaign, more than 900 Foster's drinkers will be flown on three special Qantas jumbo jets to Australia for a two-week holiday

## Heseltine to put pressure on Japan's whisky import curbs

By JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

MICHAEL HESELTINE, President of the Board of Trade, speaking before he sets off on the largest British ministerial trade mission to Japan, said that he would use the visit partly to apply pressure on Japan to lift its protectionist barriers against imports of Scotch whisky.

He said that this was an area where he hoped to see progress. Mr Heseltine will meet Tomichi Murayama, the Japanese Prime Minister, and other Ministers to discuss bilateral trade issues, but also to promote British commercial interests.

He will also meet leading

Japanese industrialists in Tokyo and Nagoya, an important industrial area with a regional gross domestic product of £160 billion. Mr Heseltine, who will be accompanied by more than 40 leading British exporters for the three-day visit, will open a new British Trade and Investment Office in Nagoya.

The main aim of the mission is to boost further British exports to Japan. Britain exported £2.7 billion to Japan in the first 11 months of 1994 and the Department of Trade and Industry has set a target of £3.5 billion in 1995. Despite record exports to Japan last

year, with a rise in value terms of 15 per cent in the first 11 months, Britain still imported a far larger £8.2 billion from Japan over the same period.

Mr Heseltine said yesterday that Britain has overachieved its target of becoming the sixth largest exporter to Japan and is now in fifth position in terms of foreign direct investment into the country, ahead of Germany. Backing up this success, the DTI now offers the services of an Exports to Japan unit with nine export promoters seconded from industry who work alongside nine "dedicated desk officers". Among the British exporters

on the mission are Philips Components, Rolls-Royce, Guinness, S.G. Warburg, Tarmac, TI Group and Sir Norman Foster and Partners, the architect, as well as Virtuality Entertainment, the world's leading developer of virtual reality software.

A longer visit to Japan, coinciding with the ministerial visit, is by the Japan Electronics Business Association. Twelve senior businessmen will meet Japanese electronics equipment manufacturers as part of a drive to persuade them to "design in" British components.

Mr Heseltine said that the

high value of the yen has made it very attractive for Japanese electronic equipment manufacturers based in the UK to seek local component suppliers. British components companies have already built the market up to more than £1.7 billion but Mr Heseltine noted that Japanese manufacturers use an even higher value of components in other parts of the European Union.

Mr Heseltine commented: "Many British companies are already taking advantage of the new opportunities but enormous openings still remain."

Mr Heseltine said that the

## Unit trusts achieved record year in 1994

UNIT TRUSTS enjoyed a record year in 1994, adding a million new investor accounts, to bring the total to 6 million, and pulling in a net £6 billion. Sales of unit trust personal equity plans (PEPs) rose by £1 billion to £4 billion. Total PEP funds under management rose from £8 billion to £12 billion.

The Association of Unit Trusts and Investment Funds (AUTIF) said yesterday, however, that total unit trust funds under management had fallen from £96 billion to £92 billion. The fall was due to volatility in global equity and bond markets, as well as to institutions, such as Standard Life, withdrawing from unit trusts in favour of direct equity investment. On a monthly basis, December's net unit trust sales of £205 million were down £75 million on the previous month, and net PEP sales were £167.4 million, against £228.8 million in November.

## Boeing down to earth

BOEING'S net income fell to \$856 million last year from \$1.24 billion after a decline in sales of commercial aircraft and higher spending on research and development. Fourth-quarter profits for the US aerospace company were \$157 million, or 46 cents a share, compared with \$304 million, or 89 cents a share, and sales fell 9 per cent. Although 270 commercial jet transports were delivered in 1994, down from 330 in 1993, defence and space programme sales rose 8 per cent, increasing the year's operating profit by \$84 million.

## Philips creates 300 jobs

PHILIPS COMPONENTS, the colour television tube factory that has just enjoyed a record-breaking year, is creating 300 jobs, taking its workforce to 1,100. Philips of Belmont, Durham, said the extra jobs were part of a £50 million investment programme to turn the plant into a world-class manufacturing centre. Jim Smith, the plant director, said: "We now have the platform to establish the plant as a world leader and in order to satisfy customer demand we need to move from five to seven-day working."

## Country Casuals blow

COUNTRY CASUALS, the fashion retailer, will be hit by an exceptional charge of £850,000 against the disposal of Koko Stores, a low-making subsidiary, to a buy-in consortium for a nominal sum. There will be a further charge of £450,000 against the closure of unprofitable units in the EMI chain. Country Casuals shares rose 4p to 92p after an upbeat statement on Christmas trading, when like-for-like sales were up by 37 per cent. For the year as a whole, sales rose by more than 4 per cent.

## SEC Greyhound inquiry

GREYHOUND LINES, the Dallas bus operator, said it was being investigated by federal regulators over allegations of securities law violations. Greyhound said it was notified by the Securities and Exchange Commission on Monday of the investigation into allegations made in shareholder and bondholder lawsuits filed last year. In the lawsuits, filed in August and October, a shareholder and bondholder alleged the company failed to disclose information that affected the value of its stock and publicly traded bonds.

## Recovery lifts DuPont

DUPONT, the American chemicals company, reported record profits for the last quarter of 1994, capping what it called a terrific year, as economic recovery boosted demand. DuPont said that it earned a record \$646 million, or 95 cents a share, in the final quarter, up sharply from earnings of \$226 million, or 33 cents a share. Earnings for all of 1994 were at a record high of \$2.7 billion, or \$4 a share, against \$555 million, or 81 cents a share, in 1993. "1994 was a terrific year for DuPont," Edgar Woolard, chairman, said.

## GA appoints Rankin

GENERAL ACCIDENT, the insurance group, has appointed Sir Alick Rankin as the next chairman, the company announced yesterday. Sir Alick, currently chairman of Scottish & Newcastle, the brewing group, will succeed Lord Airie, who is due to retire after the annual meeting in 1997. In view of a potential conflict of interest between General Accident and the insurance subsidiaries of BAT Industries, Sir Alick resigned from the board of BAT yesterday.

## Occidental loses \$36m

OCCIDENTAL PETROLEUM, the oil, gas and chemicals producer, reported break-even earnings in the fourth quarter, and a loss of 6 cents a share after paying preferred dividends, on sales of \$2.5 billion. That compared with a profit in 1993 of \$7 million, or 15 cents a share, on sales of \$2 billion. But chemical earnings, before special items, soared to \$212 million for the quarter, from \$10 million in 1993. Last year Occidental lost \$36 million, or 36 cents a share, compared with a profit in 1993 of \$283 million, or 80 cents a share.

## Producer of Gitanes has Fr6.5bn tag

By MARTIN BARROW

SHARES in Seita, maker of the pungent Gauloises and Gitanes cigarettes, will be priced at between Fr126 and Fr134, valuing the company at a minimum of Fr6.5 billion, the French Government announced yesterday. The privatisation ends 325 years of state control of the tobacco industry.

Edmond Alphandery, the Economy Minister, said that the state would raise between Fr5 billion and Fr5.5 billion, and retain a 10 per cent interest. A group of "stable shareholders" would get 25 per cent in a private placement. Seita employees and tobacco sellers will be able to buy shares on preferential terms.

About 26.6 million shares will be offered for sale, with half destined for private investors. The Government expects to raise about Fr5 billion from privatisations this year. Other companies being prepared for sale include Bull, the computer maker, and CNP, the bank.

## New White Paper on competition

By PHILIP BASSETT

THE Government will today announce a new initiative on Britain's industrial competitiveness by revealing that ministers are to publish a new White Paper on the issue, a significant Whitehall victory for Michael Heseltine, President of the Board of Trade.

Mr Heseltine is understood to have convinced opponents in Whitehall of the importance of improving the competitiveness of British firms. Business leaders have urged the Government to make a new move to refresh its competitiveness initiative. The CBI, which first suggested a competitiveness White Paper, has strongly supported Mr Heseltine's push for a second statement on the issue.

Sir Colin Southgate, chairman of Thorn EMI and PowerGen, is likely to be the next President of the CBI after his nomination by the council as deputy president. The current President, Sir Bryan Nicholson, retires in May 1995.

## Halifax investors fight merger

By ROBERT MILLER

TWO dissident Halifax investors yesterday handed in their nomination papers to stand for election to the building society's board of directors. They intend to fight the Halifax plan to merge with the Leeds Permanent Building Society and seek a stock market listing in 1997.

Peter Judge, a local councillor in the Halifax area, said: "I am very concerned that the proposed merger between the Halifax and the Leeds will inevitably mean job losses and branch closures in the area."

Serge Lourie, who founded the Halifax Action Group, which has already signed up hundreds of investors, said: "Between us we have collected



Dissident investors Serge Lourie and Peter Judge.

over 120 valid signatures supporting our nominations and they are still coming in at a rate of ten a day."

The Halifax Action Group

opposes the merger with the Leeds on the grounds that it will mean them losing the mutual status that they enjoy as building societies. Mr

Lourie said: "Even as late as last summer the Halifax was still publicly espousing the cause and advantages of mutualism. Then in November the merger and subsequent stock market flotation was announced."

"The merger has not been justified and we are not convinced that it is in the best interests of the society's members. Nor do we think that the assets of the societies, which actually belong to their members, have been properly valued."

Mr Lourie added that the main beneficiaries of the merger would be the senior managers and directors of both societies. He said: "It is just a case of the fat cats getting even fatter."

## LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

071-782 7344

### LEGAL NOTICES

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## LVMH sales leap 17%

LVMH, the luxury goods group, reported a 17.4 per cent jump in 1994 sales and forecast a 20 per cent increase in profit for the year before exceptional items. Bernard Arnault, chairman, added that the company was looking for a "very significant" rise in its 1995 net result. Sales for the year to December 31, 1994 of perfumes, luggage, wines and spirits climbed to 27.97 billion

francs from Fr23.82 billion, the company said. The 1993 profit before exceptional items was Fr2.97 billion. After exceptional items, the 1993 figure was Fr3.57 billion. All sectors showed a sales increase in 1994 but luxury goods rose more than beverages, confirming the group's strategy. Mr Arnault said: "Guinness has 33 per cent of Moët Hennessy, an LVMH subsidiary."

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□ Ministers in demand in the jobs market □ First class answer for the Royal Mail □ Govett heads west

□ **BUSINESS** demand for former politicians is much more selective than it used to be. Employers want value for money: known skills, not general ability and experience. Ex-MPs have fronted too many duds to be an ornament on the notepad.

For those who have acquired the right expertise, made the right connections and have the right personalities, however, prospects in the private sector have never been brighter. More than 2,000 defence civil servants and military officers have joined defence-related companies over the past decade. Cabinet ministers involved in privatisations are the most popular of all.

Lord Wakeham, who now joins NM Rothschild at £20,000 a year, is an ideal candidate. As the last Energy Secretary, he spatchcocked together the ludicrous formula for privatising the electricity industry — many of the companies advised by Rothschilds — and was the minister who did more than any other to ensure the demise of most of the coal industry, even though he was not around to face the music. His fate was most accurately foretold in a report commissioned by his department, from Rothschilds.

His move will leave an exceptionally nasty taste in some mouths. Yet privately owned Rothschild is not rewarding him

for past services, not least because he gave none. Rothschild earned its business fair and square. Dealings with the minister merely allowed it to get to know a man who fits well into the bank's odd tradition of able, charming, slightly gossipy and exceptionally well-informed networkers. Sir Michael Richardson, a classic exponent, is just retiring in his seventeenth year — though he might have continued had Sir Evelyn de Rothschild wanted him to. Lord Wakeham may be non-executive but is likely to be closely involved. His renowned deal-making skill is valuable.

He joins an uneven list. Lord Tebbit, who headed the DTI when British Telecom was privatised, became a BT director. Lord Walker, Energy Secretary when British Gas was sold, joined the British Gas board as well as companies connected to Rothschilds, which helped the Government sell it. Lord Young, who did so much to extend competition in telecommunications when he headed the DTI, became executive chairman of Cable and Wireless, a notable

gainer. But Lord Young was recruited because he was a big figure with business experience, known to leaders in foreign parts where C&W wanted to expand. He has not disappointed.

Ministers are hired for expertise and connections, not for their status. Hence, perhaps, the unhappier experience of Lord Lawson, too big a fish to be useful. Rothschilds is political. Norman Lamont rejoined the bank that employed him, like others before he became a minister. But business is buying future services, not favours. Its appointments are logical. Some still stink.

### The solution is in the post

□ **MICHAEL** Heseltine was forced to erect a smokescreen yesterday. With some help from the Trade and Industry Select Committee, he aimed to show that he has not ruled anything out for the Post Office. Yes he has. The Cabinet has painted itself into a corner. Post Office managers should understand



the and help ministers escape.

The Government's position is clear. It wants privatisation because the Royal Mail needs the freedom of operating in the private sector. But the people, reflected in Parliament, hate the idea. The Treasury rightly argues that if the Post Office is in the public sector, it should be under Treasury financial control. The precedent of British Nuclear Fuels, which was not, has understandably been ended.

Within this regime, it is perfectly possible for the Treasury and the DTI to be more sympathetic to what Post Office managers want to do. Public-sector discipline need not mean saying no, using the Post Office as a cash cow or being too purist

about competing with the private sector. That is the short-term solution Post Office management might best pursue. It is not helpful to trumpet plans for "an enterprise culture" in the business. That is just what the public feared most. Ministers' attempts to introduce more competition as an alternative to privatisation are equally misconceived.

The DTI and managers should then get down to devising a structure that would take the Post Office out of the public sector, without taking it down the logical road of regulated privatisation that will make it another British Gas. That would necessarily unwind the cross-subsidies that alone maintain the universal one-price post and the network of Post Offices.

If these are to be kept, the Post Office needs elements of artificial monopoly. That is incompatible with having a primary duty to maximise returns to shareholders, alleviated by a regulator forcing massive job cuts. The simplest answer is to make the Post Office a statutory company, privately financed but offering limited returns to capital-provid-

ers — and no bonanza for directors — in exchange for some trading security. If the will is there, so are the solutions.

### Plum Duff for Govett

□ **GOVETT** & Co has always been looked down on by the City's investment community as a bit of an upstart. Hardly surprising considering it is run by a brash American, accounts in dollars and is always one of the first firms to spot investment trends and new markets.

Yesterday Govett bought the status it has long felt it deserved when it acquired Duff & Phelps in Chicago. With a 64-year history, Duff & Phelps is a fully paid-up member of the American investment establishment. Understandably Govett wants to incorporate such a fine-sounding name into its own moniker.

To the City's chagrin, the deal will enlarge Govett's fund under management to \$50 billion, putting the company in the top ten of British fund managers and in the same league as the M&Ms

and M&Ms of the Square Mile.

Unfortunately Govett's quantum leap makes it arguable whether it is a British company at all. Even before the acquisition the group made most of its money in the US. After its union with Duff & Phelps, the London arm will account for only a seventh of the total funds. Since Govett is paying for the company with convertible preference shares, which will end up in American hands, the company's shareholder register will also look distinctly international. As little as 55 per cent of the shares will be held by British investors.

Govett says it remains as attached to its British roots as ever and that Duff & Phelps should provide a business source for its London managers. But it is hard to escape the feeling that the firm is heading west.

### Sheppard's pie

□ **LORD SHEPPARD'S** £1.7 million pay and options package, actual, potential and deferred, can only move the interminable debate about executive pay up another notch. The GrandMet report makes it clear that the upwards adjustment in his basic pay package is to ensure his pension is not harmed by an earlier pay freeze as his Lordship is to retire soon. With a payout like that, so would most people.

## Govett buys US fund manager for \$250m

By PATRICIA TEHAN, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

GOVETT & Co, the fund manager, is expanding in America with the \$250 million acquisition of Duff & Phelps, the fund manager (see Pennington, this page).

The deal will increase the size of Govett's funds under management by five times, to \$50 billion. Ian Whitehead, the chief financial officer, said that it gave Govett "a quantum leap in terms of funds under management".

The acquisition will be through the issue of \$230 million of Govett convertible preference shares. In addition, Duff & Phelps will pay a special cash dividend of \$1.20 for each common share, at a cost of \$20 million.

Duff & Phelps manages funds worth \$41 billion. Its net income was \$16.6 million in the year to December 31, 1993. The acquisition also gives Govett a 49 per cent stake in

Beutel, Goodman & Co, the Canadian investment manager.

Mr Whitehead said the acquisition, which is conditional on the approval of shareholders of both firms, will improve the quality of earnings and give Govett the US listing it has been seeking.

The deal will increase the proportion of Govett's income coming from investment management fees from one third to two thirds this year. The acquisition is expected to enhance earnings in 1995. The combined group will change its name to Govett Duff & Phelps.

Duff & Phelps shareholders will receive American depositary receipts (ADRs), representing new convertible preference shares in Govett. If they are converted, it will result in 36.5 million new shares, representing 35 per cent of the enlarged ordinary share capital.

Mr Whitehead said that the firm plans to list the ADRs for its ordinary and preference shares on the New York Stock Exchange and the new preference shares in London.

The firm said that the enlarged group should be able to compete more effectively in most sectors of the fund management market place. It hopes that the US fund management capability and US domestic products of Duff & Phelps will fit well with Govett's traditional fund management strengths in UK and international investment.

Duff & Phelps is based in Chicago. In 1993, investment management business, accounted for 70 per cent of its \$70.3 million revenues.

At September 30, \$24 billion of its \$41 billion funds were managed on an advisory basis, the rest on a discretionary basis.

For the first nine months of the year, its net income was \$13.2 million, up from \$12 million in the same period of 1993.

## TSB finds no reason for share price leap

By OUR BANKING CORRESPONDENT

TSB was forced to make a Stock Exchange announcement that it knew of no reason for the sudden increase in its share price yesterday. Its shares closed 7p higher at 248p, a rise of 7 per cent.

The announcement was made in response to an inquiry from the Stock Exchange after 75 million shares changed hands, compared with about four million on an average day. Speculation about possible bidders centred on BNP, the French bank, but analysts said an acquisition by a continental bank did not make sense because there would be no rationalisation benefits.

TSB's 1994 results disappointed the market. Its operating profits were flat, there was no mention of a share buy-back and the possibility of a building society acquisition was played down.

One analyst said that any bidder would have to pay £4.5 billion for TSB, a hefty premium to its £3.8 billion market capitalisation yesterday, or a more normal £3.5 billion. He said National Australia Bank, which already owns Yorkshire and Clydesdale banks, would make more sense than BNP.

There was also market speculation that Kleinwort Benson could be the subject of a bid from Germany's Dresdner Bank after its shares rose 1p to 599p, with 1.7 million shares traded.



New stores in store: Sir Malcolm Field, left, and Jeremy Hardie, the chairman, plan to open up to 50 smaller shops

## WH Smith edges to £45.2m in sluggish market

By SUSAN GILCHRIST

EVIDENCE of the sluggish state of the high street was provided by WH Smith yesterday as the retail group reported a pedestrian 1.1 per cent rise in first-half profits.

Pre-tax profits rose to £45.2 million in the six months to November 26, only slightly ahead of the £44.7 million achieved in the corresponding period last year. Operating profits increased 8.7 per cent.

The result was in line with analysts' forecasts but below best expectations and the shares fell 7p to 430p.

Sir Malcolm Field, the chief executive, described the performance as solid rather than spectacular. Music and video were the strongest performers, while book sales were virtually flat. Stationery and news suffered declines.

Sir Malcolm said the group's specialist chains, such as Waterstone's and Oxo, had fared better in a flat market, as they enjoyed the loyalty of the serious consumer. The WH Smith chain had a poor first half with like-for-like sales slipping 1.7 per cent. Sir Malcolm said the business had been hit by increased

competition after the Government's move to allow more outlets to sell newspapers.

Marketing initiatives are being introduced to raise customer spending. The group is also looking to open up to 50 smaller stores in less-populated catchment areas. Sir Malcolm said: "We can now run small stores profitably."

The distribution businesses again performed well while profits from US retail operations slipped. Circumstances continued to improve at Do It All, the 50:50 DIY joint venture with Boots. The group's share of its losses fell to £2.3 million from £7.5 million. The business is expected to be back in the black next year. Sir Malcolm said J. Sainsbury's acquisition of Tesco Homecare could be beneficial because it would reduce capacity in the market and remove a discount-led operator.

There was better news on Christmas trading with like-for-like sales up 9.4 per cent in the four weeks to December 24. The interim dividend is lifted to 5.25p from 5p and will be paid to shareholders on April 3.

Tempus, page 26

## Lombard taken over nine months after float

By SARAH BAGNALL, INSURANCE CORRESPONDENT

LOMBARD INSURANCE, which listed on the stock market last May, has agreed to an £83 million takeover offer from Caisse Centrale des Assurances Mutuelles Agricoles (Groupama), a French insurer. The deal marks the end of the talks that started, informally, three weeks before Lombard floated.

Groupama is offering 233p a share — a 37.1 per cent premium to Lombard's share price on Tuesday and a 46 per cent premium to the 160p flotation price. The offer price values the 3.3 per cent stake held by the company's directors, including Andy Laing, managing director, and their wives at £2.7 million.

In less than two years, the

company's value has rocketed from £32 million — the price paid when it was bought out by management from Continental of the US. On flotation the company was valued at £57 million.

The company's management and the venture capital funds that backed the buyout in May 1993 have been amply rewarded. Electra Kingsway, the venture capital fund that led the buyout, owns 20 per cent of the equity, worth £16.6 million. Overall, Electra has made a 71 per cent return, or £11 million profit, on its original investment of £15.4 million after taking into consideration the £9.8 million it took out at flotation. Private shareholders who invested in the group at

flotation have seen the value of their investments rise 46 per cent in just nine months.

Mr Laing said the deal gives Lombard the muscle to expand via acquisitions. He said the company was aware of being a small fish in a large, competitive and cyclical industry.

Groupama's offer has been accepted by the management, Electra and Phoenix Fund Managers, which together account for about 24.4 per cent of the equity. No job losses are expected among Lombard's 340 employees.

Lombard announced a rise in pre-tax profits from £5.4 million to £7.8 million in the six months to December 31 and an interim dividend of 2.75p, to be paid March 16.

## Colefax & Fowler lifts dividend

By SUSAN GILCHRIST



David Green said growth was in the middle market

SHAREHOLDERS of Colefax & Fowler have been rewarded with the first dividend increase in two-and-a-half years following a marked improvement in the performance of the upmarket wallpaper and fabrics group.

The group, which has suffered badly during the recession, made pre-tax profits of £627,000 in the six months to October 31, well up on the £50,000 achieved in the corresponding period last year. The interim dividend has been increased to 0.7p a share from 0.5p and will be paid to shareholders on April 7.

David Green, chief executive, said much of the rise was due to the strong growth of Jane Churchill, the group's middle market brand. "Demand has been good and we

have been able to put prices up which has obviously benefited margins," he said.

While the middle market is now recovering, the upper end of the market remains difficult. However, Mr Green hopes there will be some improvement in this sector later in the year.

The one blackspot was the upholstered furniture business, which accounts for just 4 per cent of sales, where turnover fell 7.6 per cent and is showing no sign of recovery.

In spite of this Mr Green was upbeat about the group's prospects. "We are definitely on a growth trend," he said. It was realistic to believe that the group could return to its peak of the late-1980s when it was making profits of about £4 million.

DANISH-UK CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

COPENHAGEN Capacity

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Seminar, Thursday 2 February 1995

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The seminar will be held at Touche Ross & Co., Stonecutter Court, 1 Stonecutter Street, London, EC4A 4TR on Thursday 2 February 1995 at 5.00 pm.

To register, complete the form below and fax it to: The Danish-UK Chamber of Commerce, fax: 0171 333 0243, tel: 0171 259 6795.

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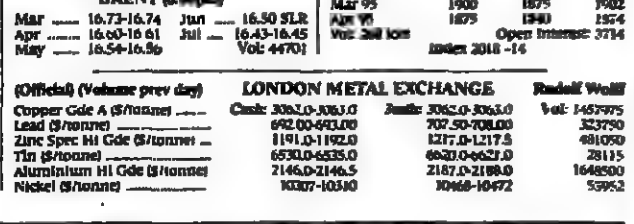
digital



**MICHAEL CLARK**



Month	Number of Patents
Aug	205
Sep	215
Oct	225
Nov	245
Dec	225
Jan	255

[illegible][illegible]

January 25, 1995 The 9045 Calls 245d									
Mar	52	73	54	75	103	138	160	180	200
Apr	44	67	79	98	130	157	177	193	210
May	35	72	01	116	144	174	187	195	200
Jun	-	79	-	120	-	170	-	-	-
Underlying security price.									

□ **NEW YORK:** Shares on Wall Street rallied during the morning session on a steadier dollar, firmer bonds and comments by Alan Greenspan, chairman of the Federal Reserve Bank, which were seen as positive. The Dow Jones industrial average was 3,877.17 at midday, up 14.47 points.

ADT	83 3/4	+2 1/4
Scout24	83 3/4	+1 3/4
Kelton	99 1/2	+1 1/4
Danka Bus Systems	388 1/2	+1 3/4
Tadpole Tech	200 1/2	+1 3/4
AAH	318 1/2	+1 3/4
Fleisch	351 1/2	+1 3/4
Centab Pharma	320 1/2	+1 3/4
Glenz	600 1/2	+1 3/4
Bowster	421 1/2	+1 3/4
Lloyds Chem	290 1/2	+1 3/4
OS Holdings	138 1/2	+1 3/4

**Closing Prices Page 30**

the change in accounting policy looks a bit cheeky. Few would quibble with the new policy of writing off the cost of software as the money is spent, but the effect of the change is to hit the balance sheet with £19 million that might otherwise have depressed profits.

The biggest cheer will come from Lombard's management, which paid only £32 million for the general insurance business back in May 1993, scoring a handsome gain a year later in a £57 million float. Timing is the main factor behind the success, with Lombard bene-

entry to the UK market via a well-managed company with a position in several niche markets. Insurance rates are already coming under competitive pressure, which explains why most of the quoted sector languishes below asset value.

**EDITED BY NEIL BENNETT**

100



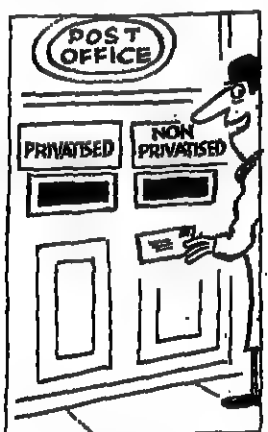
## THE TIMES CITY DIARY

### Congratulation not so welcome

LIKE a reluctant National Lottery winner, a trader at a well-known broking house not a thousand miles from Smithfield Market was somewhat shy to talk to me yesterday about his amazing run of luck which has netted him £100,000. The thirty-something trader, who is said never before to have executed an option transaction, and who was only recently transferred from the firm's UK desk to the Far East desk, reportedly took out £4,500 worth of call options in Wellcome on Friday. By Monday morning, when Wellcome and Glaxo announced their engagement, the trader was starting a beginner's luck pile of money in the face. When I telephoned the said trader yesterday, his immediate response was "It's not true. I don't know what you're talking about" — said before I even mentioned Wellcome options. "It's got nothing to do with you. If you print that, they'll fire me," said he. "But how can you deny something without knowing what I am talking about?" I asked. "It is not true. You had better speak to my compliance officer," said he. And so I did... who said I should speak to the PR department, who said "We can't comment. We can't help you"... and all I ever wanted to do was to congratulate the man.

### Red-hot service

YOU cannot say that Sainsbury's is not hot on after-sales service. A year ago, Russian visitor Galina Svet had to flee the Chichester superstore when it caught fire. In her rush for the exit, she left behind her change from £10. Galina returned to Chichester the other day to pick up the balance, and in seasonal panty style Sainsbury's handed her £25 worth of vouchers and a bouquet.



"Which one for Michael Heseltine?"

### Comfortable?

GOOD news for visiting businessmen to China. Stung by international criticism of their public lavatories, the Peking Urban Construction Authority launched a competition five months ago for a new design. A young Chinese woman won the award for the best-designed new toilet, having included within the structure a telephone and newspaper stand. And, intriguingly, Yuri Kurtschenko, an Australian who hails from Queensland, won the unexplained "best participation" section.

### 90 not out

IF YOU are passing the Tower of London today, do wish "Happy Birthday" to the Cullinan diamond which, as two cut gem stones, graces the Crown Jewels. The gem is 90 today. The world's largest diamond weighed in at 3,025 carats when discovered at the Premier mine, Transvaal, South Africa, and the reputed remark by the man who prized it out of the rock using his pocket knife was "Cor, Mr Cullinan will be pleased when he sees this". In ten years' time, the owner might even send a telegram.

COLIN CAMPBELL

ECONOMIC VIEW



ANATOLE KALETSKY

# Japan's disaster does not signal an economic crisis

It may be little consolation to the people of Kobe, but rebuilding their city will benefit the whole of Japan

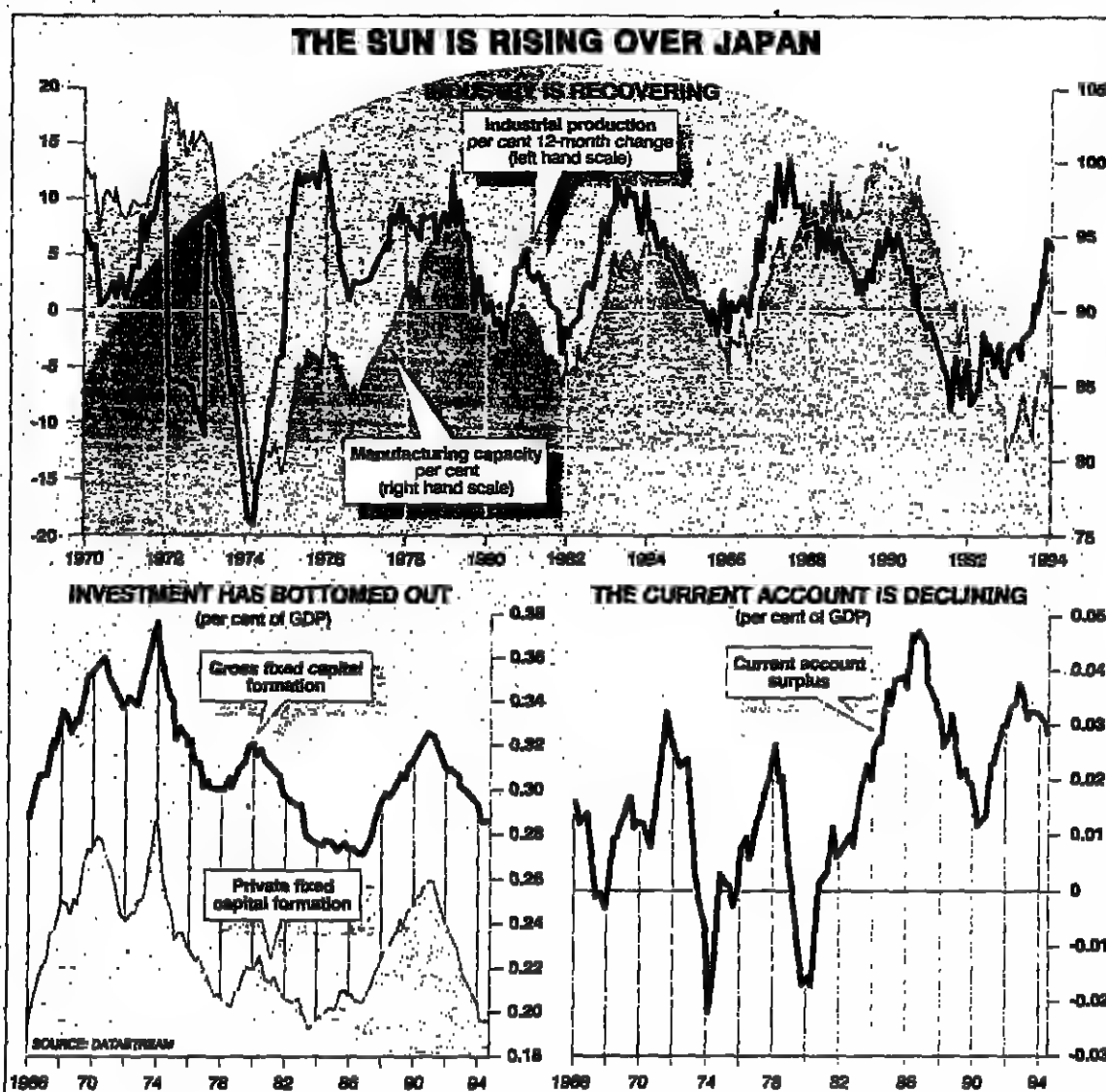
Who ever heard of an economy that suffered from earthquakes, hurricanes and wars? This week, investors seemed to discover such a nonpareil. Monday's 1,000-point plunge in the Nikkei equity index in Tokyo, a fall roughly equivalent to 200 points of the FT-SE 100 or the Dow Jones average, set off a chain reaction of mild panic across the globe. Financial markets are usually heartless beasts; while families mourn their dead, they gloat about the profits that often attend misfortune. But this week, financial analysts vied with news reporters in their purple depictions of disaster.

Consider a few of the perils most widely predicted. Japan's industrial economy could seize up because of the destruction of factories, disruption of transport and interference with just-in-time manufacturing schedules. Consumer confidence could collapse, not only in Kobe but also in Tokyo as the Japanese anticipated the next, far more dreadful, disaster. The cost of reconstruction could drain Japan's savings and push up interest rates; worse still, Japan's precariously solvent banks could find their property loans wiped out, while insurers and pension funds could be forced to pull their money out of international markets. This would trigger a global financial crisis, a collapse in the dollar, a further crippling rise in the yen and a lurch back into world recession.

These and similar theories, reminding me of the scare-mongering that preceded the Gulf War in 1991. In the six months before the fighting started, economists and financial analysts outbid each other to produce the most sensational forecasts of soaring energy prices and collapsing financial markets once war actually broke out. Instead, exactly the opposite happened — oil prices halved the day the first bombs fell, as the less excitable minority of commentators (myself happily included) had predicted. After the war, Kuwait was reconstructed with no serious financial disruption.

Two pre-Keynesian fallacies largely explain the economic misunderstandings about physical disasters. The first fallacy is to assume that the economy is always fully employed. The second is to treat government accounts like an ordinary household budget. Then commentators face a psychological temptation: to attract public attention by focusing on the worst possible outcome of any particular disaster, rather than its most likely result.

That journalists and analysts are not the only ones subject to this temptation was demonstrated this week, when the head of Japan's Chamber of Commerce and Industry was quoted as follows in the *Financial Times*: "My estimate is that the quake inflicted damage worth more than ¥4,000 billion, or some 10 per cent of Japan's gross national product." To put this estimate in context, it is worth noting some figures produced last week by JP Morgan: that the whole of Hyogo Prefecture produces 4.1 per cent of Japan's GNP, that Kobe City contains 27 per cent of Hyogo's total



population and that roughly 5 per cent of the buildings in Kobe are believed to have been destroyed. Assuming a capital/output ratio of between 1 and 2, typical for an industrialised country like Japan, these figures would suggest 0.5 to 1 per cent of GNP as a more reasonable estimate of the costs of destruction. But speculative figures like these only obfuscate the main point: that the macroeconomic impact of physical destruction must always be assessed from a Keynesian point of view.

When a house or factory is destroyed its owner is certainly made poorer, but if the government finances the reconstruction, there may be no significant loss of wealth for the nation. If a country has plenty of underused industrial capacity and labour, rebuilding the house or factory can actually be beneficial, creating employment and boosting GDP. Even from a narrowly financial standpoint, the reconstruction can be almost costless. Additional tax revenue offsets the cost of rebuilding. If there was plenty of economic slack before reconstruction, only a small part of the costs will have to be borne by future taxpayers in the form of higher government debt.

Even when a disaster happens to a nation without spare capacity, such as Kuwait, the cost can be negligible for the world economy as a whole. Provided there is reasonable trade and under-utilised resources on a world scale, the benefits of reconstruction spread rapidly across the globe and increase world output. The main financial effect of a disaster in a country with limited physical resources is to redistribute wealth from the stricken country to the rest of the world.

Japan, which has only just emerged from recession, is fortunate to face no physical resource constraints and its

government has taken the Keynesian approach to disaster-relief to its logical conclusion. Because earthquake insurance cover is discouraged by law the government will finance almost the whole of the reconstruction effort through loans to homeowners and businesses. This will minimise the short-term impact on financial institutions and private savings. In the long-term, the Japanese system limits the burden carried by the whole nation's taxpayers by forcing the afflicted households and businesses to repay their loans, albeit on concessional terms. The very high cost of land in Japan makes repayment of these loans more tolerable for households, since they represent a relatively small portion of the total value of their property.

In the long term, of course, there may be an increase in saving among the people who have a large part of their wealth wiped out and replaced by debts to the government. But for the first year or two, this deflationary effect is bound to be swamped by the stimulus to the economy from new construction and replacement of destroyed appliances, consumer goods and cars. As for the fear of repeat in Tokyo — if denizens of that city decided to reinforce their buildings or move elsewhere, the boost to the economy would be even greater.

On balance, then, it is hard to see how the earthquake could slow economic growth in Japan, still less push the country back into recession. Far more likely is that the economy will enjoy a big boost after a month or two of deceptively weak figures distorted by the short-term disruption caused by the quake. Neither should the disaster lead to serious financial disruption. Japan's biggest economic problem in recent

years has not been a shortage of savings, but a surplus, as demonstrated by the politically troublesome current account. Now, some of these surplus savings will be absorbed by the extra government borrowing.

This change should not undermine foreign markets or push up the yen since the extra activity in Japan will reduce the current account surplus and thereby diminish the demand for yen. The net effect of all these flows should be to reduce current account imbalances and encourage both Japanese and American institutions to concentrate on their own financial markets, rather than investment abroad.

What about the threat that Japanese interest rates will rise in response to extra government borrowing? Short rates will not be affected, since they are set by the Bank of Japan, whose monetary policy is likely to ease because of the quake. Long rates could indeed feel upward pressure, not so much because of government borrowing but because of the extra economic activity it stimulates.

Economic strength does tend to push bond yields higher and the overvalued yen poses another danger to the Tokyo bond market. But even if Japanese bond yields rise, they will remain exceptionally low by international standards, the risks of serious inflation will be small and the surplus of savings, industrial capacity and labour created by the recession will take years to absorb. If, as is likely, the yen soon declines and the stockmarket recovers from the present panic, Japan should be set fair for a long period of well-balanced non-inflationary growth. It may be no consolation to the Japanese recovering from the horror of Kobe, but their country is ideally placed to benefit from the economics of reconstruction.

## Scotland pays for branch economics

Magnus Linklater bemoans the sacrifice of research excellence for commercial need

There is an awful familiarity about the reaction in Scotland to Rolls-Royce's announcement last week of the closure of its research and design division at East Kilbride in Strathclyde. Some 500 skilled jobs will be lost as the work is transferred to Derby and Bristol. Words like fury and betrayal greeted the news. Even the Scottish Office is dismayed that it knew nothing in advance about the decision.

This time, however, it is not a complaint about the closing down of another outdated factory with an inefficient and cumbersome production line. East Kilbride was one of the most innovative and successful research centres in the Rolls-Royce organisation; it had won work on the design of new aero-engines against competition from other R-R plants. In Scotland, it was regarded as precisely the kind of R&D operation to be encouraged: where the skill of the workforce and its collective technical expertise meant that it was creating new products rather than just assembling other peoples'.

But despite its undoubted qualities, East Kilbride was always vulnerable, so long as decisions about rationalising Rolls-Royce's aero-engine development and production were taken at corporate headquarters in London.

Rolls-Royce is developing its BR700 series in Germany in a joint venture with BMW. It believes that any further work on design and research can be handled within its existing capabilities at Bristol and Derby. It may well be right, though the clandestine nature of the announcement to close East Kilbride suggests embarrassment at least at the sacrifice of such a proven centre of excellence. Any satellite plant is vulnerable to corporate decision-making or economic fluctuations, unless governments play an interventionist role in R&D, which governments are unwilling to do. Until Scotland can develop more of its own indigenous manufacturing industries, the story is likely to be repeated. The location of a company's headquarters is all-important, as Weir Group of Glasgow illustrated recently when it rationalised its operations.

When the East Kilbride workforce is broken up, Scotland will lose a valuable and irreplaceable resource. It is the kind of resource that the Scottish Secretary and the Scottish CBI, to say nothing of successive Trade Secretaries, insist is the key to our future. It took many years to build up, but only a month or so to disperse. Not a good advertisement for long-term thinking.



Work will be transferred to the Derby factory

## Athena's failure raises questions of credit

Trevor Brown considers some of the lessons to be learnt if a PLC cuts an ailing subsidiary adrift

The small businessman treads a rocky enough road at the best of times. But the dismay among those who extended credit to Athena, the Pentos subsidiary that collapsed just after Christmas, was rather more than the usual hurt feelings when a big customer goes bust.

Unsecured creditors have probably lost a total of £7 million between them as a result of the ring-fencing by Pentos, the parent public limited company, of its Athena subsidiary. The whole affair raises serious questions for businesses who supply goods or extend credit to subsidiaries of large PLCs. Such suppliers have long grown accustomed to relying on the financial strength of the PLC group as rescuer of last resort if things go sour at their customer.

Consider, the entirely hypothetical maker of sprockets, inevitably named Sprocket Limited, which has a long-running contract to supply Widgets Limited, manufactur-



Unsecured creditors may have lost £7 million as a result of Pentos' ring-fencing

er of the finished product. Widgets is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Mega Engineering PLC. The company may also be one of Sprocket's most prestigious customers, and be much appreciated for its custom and association. Widgets, therefore, takes longer to pay than Sprocket's terms and conditions would normally allow, but the latter accepts this because Widgets is after all part of the Mega Engineering group — and surely the debt must be safe? Sprocket might well draw comfort from the fact that some of the main board directors of Mega Engineering are also directors of Widgets; they may also note that funding has in the past been provided by Mega Engineering to its subsidiary.

What is more, the general picture formed in the minds of Sprocket's directors, that Widgets could expect to enjoy continued financial support

from Mega Engineering, might be enhanced by the existence of a PLC guarantee of the subsidiary's bank indebtedness, and the payment of substantial intra-group dividends by Widgets in the past. And then comes the shock. A receiver has been appointed to Widgets, which has been cast adrift by its parent and has barely enough assets of its own to repay its secured creditors. Sprocket has no prospect of getting any of its money back.

At an acrimonious board meeting at Sprocket the directors wonder how to avoid this situation ever happening again. An adviser drafted in from outside puts it thus: □ They must assess the financial strength of the subsidiary

as if it is an independent company and ignore the fact that it is part of a large PLC group. They certainly must not relax their normal trading terms and conditions. □ They must ignore extraneous factors, such as the same directors appearing on the PLC's and the subsidiary's Boards. □ They must ignore the incidence of financial support having been provided to the subsidiary in the past, unless it is clear there is a legally binding agreement that would require the PLC to provide such support in the future. □ The existence of a PLC guarantee of the subsidiary's bank indebtedness does, of course, protect no one but the bank concerned: while the action of paying large intra-group dividends actually weakens the subsidiary's own financial position. □ They can look to enjoin the PLC with the supply contract, or obtain a parent company performance guarantee.

For good reasons, suppliers to subsidiaries of sizeable PLCs have ordinarily assumed that the parent will stand by its subsidiary — if nothing else, for the reputation of the group itself. Up until now, this has been a

reasonable assumption, as there have been no widely reported examples of a large PLC parent abandoning a large but ailing subsidiary.

The Pentos/Athena experience arguably changes all of this. Inevitably the parent will look to protect its reputation both in the City and in its market place. But if the support of the ailing subsidiary is in danger of bringing down the entire group, the actions of the parent company board become a little easier to understand. Their main concern must be the interests of the shareholders; there is little point in trying to protect the good name of the PLC group if it is done at the expense of its survival.

It could be said that the events surrounding the Pentos/Athena situation herald a new scenario. No longer can suppliers automatically rely on the unstinting support of a parent PLC when extending credit to a subsidiary. The only way to gain any dependable benefit from the existence of the PLC is to seek and obtain legally binding specific support. Otherwise, it is better to ignore it.

The author is Corporate Client Partner, at Chantrey Vellacott, the accountant



# Ocean Group to shed 300 jobs in £26m restructuring

By CARL MORTISHED

JOHN ALLAN, the new chief executive of Ocean Group, has launched a £26 million restructuring with the loss of more than 300 jobs and the closure of Ocean's insurance broking operation.

In a bid to reduce costs and restore growth to its core businesses, Ocean is spending £10.1 million on redundancies and a management shake-up at Cory Towage, the tugs business, McGregor Cory, the contract distribution company and NET, the environmental testing firm.

Ocean will also suffer an asset write-down of £15.8 million against surplus properties and an accounting policy change on investment in systems and software will reduce shareholders' funds by a further £19.5 million.

Profits at Ocean, whose main activities include marine services and MSAS, the freight forwarders, have shown little growth over the past five years due to increased competition.

Mr Allan said: "My strategy is to ensure that we are extremely competitive on costs." He indicated that the job losses at Cory Towage, McGregor and NET would be felt from the top to the bottom: Mr Allan said that underlying

profitability was in line with expectations and he did not expect further closures or disposals following the shut-down of insurance broking. However, the competitiveness of all the group's businesses would be kept under review, he indicated. NET, the environmental testing business traded at a loss in the first half of 1994.

Ocean will make a provision of £25.9 million against profits for the past year and yesterday forecast a maintained dividend for the year of 14.33p.

Mr Allan indicated that the dividend would probably not be covered after the exceptional write-offs. However, he expects a pay-back within two to three years on the £12 million investment in redundancies and restructuring.

Ocean has decided to reverse its policy on capitalising the cost of systems and software in the balance sheet, such as Uniel 21 for MSAS. In future such expenditure will be written off as incurred and £19.5 million has been charged to shareholders' funds. Profits will benefit by £2.6 million in the 1994 accounts from removing the depreciation charge.

Tempus, page 26



Expanding: John Corrin, Allied's chief executive, with a car airbag made by one of the company's subsidiaries

## Allied Textiles relies on acquisitions

MARTIN BARROW  
CITY NEWS EDITOR

ALLIED Textile Companies, one of Britain's leading fabric manufacturers, hinted at further acquisitions yesterday in the wake of the £29.3 million purchase of two North American businesses last year.

Announcing an increase in taxable profits to £17 million (£9.7 million) for the year to

September 30, the company said growth had come almost entirely from acquisitions and that future significant growth was likely to depend on other acquisitions.

With earnings rising to 36.3p (33.2p) a share, the company has increased the final dividend to 8.8p a share (8.3p), making 13.6p (12.9p) for the year, payable on April 3.

The carpet sector remained

a blackspot. Peter Honeysett, chairman, said: "It has been the most stubborn in reviving from the deep recession it has faced in the UK and overseas. As you would expect, positive action has been taken to address this situation."

Mr Honeysett said that while sentiment over the economy had improved, it was not reflected in hard figures in Allied's industries. "Competition has remained fierce with a reluctance on the part of retailers to accept increases in raw material prices," he said.

Early last year, Allied acquired Cleya & Tinker, a Canadian maker of worsted cloth, and Carleton Wooler Mills in America. The companies made a seven-month contribution and performed in line with expectations. The shares eased 10p to 503p.

## Cheer for brewery as beer volumes rise

WOLVERHAMPTON & Dudley Breweries reported a "satisfactory" rise in beer volumes of more than 2 per cent in the first quarter of the current financial year. Growth has been achieved across all sectors, but particularly in draught premium lager and ales for the take-home trade, said David Thompson, managing director, at the company's annual meeting yesterday.

Free on-trade remained "highly competitive", but volumes in the quarter rose slightly. Retail turnover was good, but had to be set against three "very dismal" months in 1993. However, volume growth had been won at the expense of net margins as selling expenses have risen significantly, Mr Thompson said. He added: "There is increasing evidence of consumer confidence, with first-quarter increases in food sales of 18 per cent and gaming machine income of 17 per cent — albeit that business in this month is very subdued."

## Abbey sells WFIM

ABBEY NATIONAL has sold its WF Investment Management business to Brewin Dolphin, a private client stockbroker and portfolio manager. WFIM manages 55 self-administered private pension schemes worth about £22.5 million. The price, which will be paid in cash when the deal is completed early in February, will be 1 per cent of the total funds under management on December 31, 1994. A further 1 per cent will be paid a year after completion, also based on the value of funds under management at that time.

## EU plans phone fund

THE European Commission has proposed a fund to ensure universal access to basic telephone services after they are liberalised across the European Union in 1998. It would be financed by incoming operators, who, by contributing, could avoid being required to provide a universal service in a particular area. "We are not stopping the universal service as part of liberalisation and want to make sure that everybody has access to a reasonable service," a Commission official said. In Britain, BT's competitors pay to access the network.

## QS profits warning

SHARES in QS Holdings fell 13p to 138p after the fashion retailer said profits for the year to January 27 were expected to be similar to the previous 12 months, when they fell to £5.25 million from £8.5 million. Autumn sales were below expectations as a result of the exceptionally mild weather, the company said, but there was some improvement in December with a record week before Christmas. The company increased its retail sales area by more than 16 per cent in 1994 and now has 106 outlets.

## Dudley Jenkins ahead

DUDLEY JENKINS GROUP, the supplier of products and services to users of direct mail, gained from an 18 per cent rise in expenditure on direct mail nationally in the third quarter of 1994 to lift interim profits by 19 per cent. Pre-tax profits grew to £512,000, from £430,000, in the half year to October 31. Earnings per share were 2.85p (2.39p). An interim dividend of 1.1p (0.95p) is due on March 31. Tylan Bachelier, chairman, said prospects were promising, if conditions kept improving.



## Rebels challenge NHL's need for cash call

By NEIL BENNETT  
DEPUTY BUSINESS EDITOR

THE board of National Home Loans, the centralised mortgage lender, faces a showdown with its rebel preference shareholders at its annual meeting in the City today. The shareholders are expected to challenge the group's plans for a financial reorganisation and a £50 million rights issue.

The rebels, which include Gruss

Partners, claim to speak for 14 per cent of the preference shares, and pose a serious threat to the refinancing, which needs support of at least 75 per cent of each class of shareholder. They are angry that NHL is calling on shareholders for fresh capital, since they believe believing it should be able to trade its way back to financial health.

But Jonathan Perry, left, NHL's chairman has insisted that the rights issue funds are vital for the company to

repay a bridging loan from its banks that allowed it to begin trading again last summer. Without the funds, NHL's refinancing proposals could collapse since a new £160 million bank loan is dependent on the cash injection.

One rebel said: "We have a management that has done nothing short of exceptional, but Mr Perry has taken a very inelegant short cut at the end of the company's recovery. Companies in Britain take great liberties in issuing

capital." He said NHL should do without the cash injection to avoid diluting existing shareholders' interest.

NHL expects the rebels to voice their criticisms today, although the extraordinary meeting takes place on February 13. Many of the company's largest shareholders are still backing the refinancing and NHL's advisers are thought to have calculated that it has support from a majority of preference holders.

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NOTTINGHAM



## ACCOUNTANCY

## Sorting out son of Cadbury

Robert Bruce says the new body is likely to err on the side of reform to heal the corporate divide

Next week, the Financial Reporting Council has convened a vital meeting. It will decide the crucial question of how the next steps in reforming corporate governance will be taken.

When the Cadbury Committee issued its report on the financial aspects of corporate governance and its code of conduct in December 1992, it stipulated that its sponsors, originally the FRC, the Stock Exchange and the accountancy profession, should appoint a successor committee by the end of June 1995.

tackled in the future. On the other side, stand those in the corporate sector who see the whole process as unnecessary tinkering and an extra burden on their business. As one regulator described them last week, "the people who say 'Get out of our way and let us get on with creating wealth, preferably ours'."

But first, the new committee has to be sorted out. It will need a new chairman. Sir Adrian Cadbury has said he will not run what is being called Cadbury Mark Two.

It will need a clear agenda. Sir Adrian said one of the key questions is: "whether to broaden sponsorship."

"The original committee," he said, "had a very limited authority base. The stronger the constituency the greater your ability to extend the range of what you could do."

As Sir Sydney Lipworth, chairman of the FRC, pointed out, there are already two extra sponsors in the CBI and the Institute of Directors. But many think institutional investors and shareholders generally should have a voice. Lipworth said that next week's meeting will decide on "sponsors' composition and remit". The debate has been over whether the new committee



Sir Adrian Cadbury will not run a Cadbury Mark Two

should be active or passive. And originally it was felt that Lipworth, once described by a member of the Cadbury committee as "one of the most risk-averse people I have ever met", should chair the new committee. But the money now seems to be on, as one insider put it,

of the names being bandied about. But certainly the new body is likely to err on the side of reform.

The next meeting of the existing Cadbury Committee takes place in March and that should finalise a survey detailing the effects that the Cadbury code has had on corporate behaviour. Preliminary findings are said to show a huge effect on corporate disclosures. As the Cadbury Committee member Mark Sheldrake of Linklaters and Paines, put it: "Cadbury has provided the conscientious non-executive director with a balm to hold on to in the face of a dominant chief executive." And Ian Plaistowe, English ICA president when Cadbury was set up, said its main achievement was "to reinforce what directors' real responsibilities are".

Sir Adrian's view, "it would be perfectly proper for Cadbury Mark Two to look at directors' remuneration, as well as at the ability of shareholders to raise issues at an annual general meeting, and the whole question of the strength of auditors".

The problem will be to provide further guidance when the corporate sector would rather avoid increasing the spotlight on governance issues. The recent uproar over directors' remuneration suggests that much action is still needed over governance, even if companies prefer that the issues, and the Cadbury initiative, would wither and die.

## The auditor and the luggage trolley

LAST week's debate on "The Future of Accounting—Principles or Rules" organised by KPMG and the CBI was based on a false premise. The choice between broad principles and detailed rules is not a simple one. Big audit firms would prefer to deal in broad principles because it would give them much more leeway with clients. Regulators would like to avoid too much in the way of rules because people start to play to the rules and concentrate on legal definitions rather than the spirit and intentions underlying them.

Auditors, and particularly KPMG at the moment, are arguing hard for principles. "Good judgment," said Gerry Acher, KPMG's head of auditing, "is a lot more important than knowledge of the rules." In his presentation, he talked of the excesses of the 1980s, which "exposed weaknesses in standards and the standard-setting process itself." Later he added: "At the moment we are in danger of being chivvied into a hidebound rulebook with our most senior practitioners hemmed in by detail and with little scope for applying experience and expertise... Judgment is being devalued as a result."

The problem is that the excesses were allowed through by the senior audit people in the big firms through the 1980s. The reason why a new regulatory regime was deemed necessary and why the Financial Reporting Council and the Accounting Standards Board came into existence was because, when it came to judgment, accounting firms let clients do what they liked. In a nutshell, the accounting firms' argument is one of "trust us and we will ensure that clients stay in line". Given the experience of the 1980s, that is nonsense.

It contrasts with the perceptions of Sir David Tweedie, now chairman of the ASB, but for much of the 1980s a senior technical partner at what is now KPMG. In his presentation, he said: "The 1980s auditing principle was—Keep The Client".

And that is where the firms' argument falls apart. If they had come through the roaring boom-to-bust of the 1980s with a reputation for prudence, for keeping client companies in check and ensuring that they were wedded to solid, conservative accounting policies with nary a glance at creative accounting wheezes, no one would be worried. But they were not. Over and over

they gave in to their clients and were made to look fools later on when all the schemes, and frequently the client's profitability, unravelled.

It is ludicrous to suggest anyone is likely to forget all that overnight and let the firms get away with applying their own loosely applied judgment. It's an old joke but Tweedie used it again. "What is the difference between an airport luggage trolley and an auditor?—the airport luggage trolley has a mind of its own." Tweedie was in the most combative form that I have ever seen him. Normally he relies on simple argument, logic and some jokes to spice it up. But this time it looked as though all the puffery from the firms had riled him more than usual. It was very much a "How many more times do we have to tell you this?" performance. Even more startling was the emotional outburst from the audience by Lord Sheppard of Didsbury, chairman of Grand Metropolitan. "The Stock Exchange and the accountancy profession should be ashamed of their efforts," he shouted. "The accountancy profession hasn't helped industry at all." There was an added twist to this in that when Tweedie was chief technical partner at KPMG he had many a bust-up with Grand Metropolitan, which was a prominent client.



ROBERT BRUCE

The other myth, that of accounting rules bringing industry to its knees, was put forward by Keith Hamill, both chairman of the CBI financial reporting panel and group finance director at Forté. "Rules," he said "divert resources from wealth creation. They disrupt business planning and decision-making." He backed his argument with a pile of figures showing what he claimed was the burgeoning length of accounting standards.

But Tweedie had the final word. Five out of seven standards had to be introduced just to counter poor practice. In terms of underlying principles, they were shorter. The only reason for the additional guidance sections was because they had been requested by industry and the firms. And in one case a standard has been lengthened simply to accommodate a dissenting view by Donald Main, Hamill's predecessor as Forté finance director, had wanted to add.

No argument has less than two sides. But this particular one has very little going for it from the side of audit firms and business.

## No Chance says Coopers

THEY don't like Michael Chance, executive counsel of the profession's joint disciplinary scheme, down at Coopers & Lybrand. It's not surprising really. According to the judgement handed down when Coopers tried to stop the JDS from investigating their role in the Maxwell affair, the High Court judges said in their judgment of the judicial review that "the likelihood was

that on completing those inquiries he [Chance] would be making allegations concerning not only the competence, but also the integrity of the named partners".

## Toytown audit

MEANWHILE, Coopers & Lybrand are soon to find themselves in the forthcoming Legoland leisure park, due to

open near Windsor next year. One of the buildings that Legoland intends to immortalise is the stunning office block above London's Charing Cross Station that Coopers occupies. In fact, the leisure park is, according to a Lego spokesman, already built. Next thing Coopers will announce that they've won the audit for the Bank of Toytown.

## Sweet music

THIS Sunday's castaway on Desert Island Discs is none other than Sir Adrian Cadbury, the man behind the eponymous code of best practice in corporate governance. Presumably his choice of records will reflect the goal of high corporate morality. Ain't Misbehavin' has got to be high on his hit list.

## No freebies

LEVY GEE made a wise move on the international accounting network circuit this week in leaving the International Group of Accounting Firms (IGAF), and joining CKL. For one thing, said Leon Nahon, Levy Gee international liaison partner, people will stop asking if IGAF stands for "I Go Abroad Free".

ROBERT BRUCE

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Applications enclosing a curriculum vitae with the names and addresses of two referees should be sent to the Chief Justice's Clerk, Shire Hall, Bury St Edmunds, IP33 1HF by Friday, 10th February 1995. Interviews will be held on Monday, 27th February 1995.

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For further information and a job description, please contact the Personnel Officer, Arthritis Care, 10 Stephenson Way, London NW1. (Tel: 071 916 1500). Closing date for the receipt of applications is 22 February 1995. Interviews will be held during the period 8 to 10 March 1995.

Arthritis Care is pursuing a policy of commitment to equal opportunities and welcomes applications from all sectors of the community. People who have experienced or who are experiencing disability as a result of arthritis are particularly encouraged to apply.

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For an information pack please contact our consultant Caroline Richards at Austin Knight UK Limited on 0171-439 5717, or you may write to her at: Knightway House, 20 Sofa Square, London W1A 1J5, quoting reference A667. Closing date for completed applications: 7th February 1995.

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# THE





**OPERA page 34**  
Sex makes the Almaviva  
household go round  
in Scottish Opera's  
new Marriage of Figaro

# ARTS

**DANCE page 35**  
A darker shade of  
fairy tale: Cinderella  
gets the Lindsay Kemp  
touch at Sadler's Wells



**CINEMA: Only You** deserves a medal from the Italian tourist industry, but gets nothing from Geoff Brown

## True love and such gorgeous weather

**T**hinking seriously about your summer holiday? Alongside the brochures and TV programmes you should take in *Only You*, a feature-length advertisement for Italian tourism masquerading as a Hollywood romantic comedy.

The weather is gorgeous, the scenery divine. The hotels are either five-star palaces, such as Venice's Hotel Danieli, or little hideaways dripping with charm. At every restaurant, someone will serenade you or remark, in a fragrant accent, that your beauty will make the stars in the sky feel jealous. Your tour guide, director Norman Jewison, who last tickled the heart in *Moonstruck*.

Few recent offerings have been so unashamedly old-fashioned as this smooth but shallow homage to the land that fathered Rossano Brazzi and Fifties movies like *Three Coins in the Fountain*. With *Moonstruck*, Jewison at least had a sharply flavoured script from John Patrick Shanley to save him from banality; Diane Drake's apprentice effort proves no such bulwark.

The leading character, played by Marisa Tomei, is a diehard Pittsburgh romantic who treats love songs as holy writ. On the verge of marrying a dull foot doctor, she flies off to Venice to locate an unknown person called Damon Bradley, the name once selected by a Ouija board and a fortune-teller as her future, perfect partner. Enter Robert Downey Jr., an American shoe salesman who is not Damon Bradley, but falls for her anyway, and partners her on a twisting journey to Rome and beyond, chasing her dream.

Though neither player has quite the star quality to carry the material, they share a youthful appeal. The rest of the cast do their best with their allotted caricatures, from Joaquim de Almeida's hotel Romeo (the Rossano Brazzi part) to Bonnie Hunt's bubbly best friend; and Rachel Portman's music is always on hand to give support. It is hard, though, not to be aggravated by a film so content to drip-feed an audience with a diluted mixture of comedy and romance.

If picture postcard Italy does not appeal, you should try *Barcelona*. Whit Stillman's impressive successor to that ironic comedy of gilded youth, *Metropolitan*. Not that he



Bubby Bonnie Hunt and romantic Marisa Tomei are on the trail of the perfect man amid glorious Italian scenery, in Norman Jewison's unashamedly old-fashioned film

goes in for obvious tourist views: the camera shrugs off the city's beauty in the same way that Fred, the film's abrasive American naval officer, turns a blind eye to the city's sights when his earnest cousin Ted gives him a tour.

"That's the catch," says Ted, salesman for an American-based car company. Fred, proudly patriotic, has other things on his mind, like the anti-American sentiments sweeping Spain (the time is the early Eighties), and his status as an "advance man" for the Sixth Fleet. Ted muses over his one American sailor off-screen; Fred himself is fired at Stillman rises to the challenge with a newly confident visual style that enables him to shift with ease from comedy to

hospitable drama: from talk about shaving to observations about Americans abroad.

Taylor Nichols and Chris Eigeman, the actors who play Ted and Fred. And though Stillman's dialogue never quite achieves the zest displayed in the earlier film, the tone is dry, elegant, literate.

But the differences with *Metropolitan* loom larger. That was a cosy, ostrich film; this yanks its head from the sand and deals with matters close to Stillman's heart, such as the play of politics and personal relations. As Ted and Fred get entangled with the locals, danger and violence lurk. A terrorist bombing kills one American sailor off-screen; Fred himself is fired at Stillman rises to the challenge with a newly confident visual style that enables him to shift with ease from comedy to

hospitable drama: from talk about shaving to observations about Americans abroad.

The film's sensibility is still somewhat rarefied: Stillman is unlikely to be hired to direct Sylvester Stallone. But he has emerged from his cocoon, mastered a wider canvas, remained true to himself, and made a film that dances quietly with intelligence and wit, no mean feat for a director of his profile.

"Our physical similarity is disarming, isn't it?" murmurs one of the long-lost half-brothers at the centre of *Suture*, a startling American independent film by an adventurous pair, Scott McGehee and David Siegel. Both agree. Only the viewer spots the obvious: one brother is white, the other black, and they bear no resemblance.

We seem to have fallen into a dream, a dream variously nourished by avant-garde art and American melodramas.

beautifully visualised in widescreen black-and-white on locations in Phoenix, Arizona. McGehee and Siegel, whose backgrounds lie in writing and painting, have mentioned the *Stries* thrillers *Seconds* and *Mirage* as sources of inspiration. The film's outrageous central conceit could also have sprung from a James Purdy novel.

To give himself a new life, the white brother, Vincent, plans his own papers on his black sibling Clay, and plots to blow him up in a car accident. Clay, badly burnt, is next encountered as a single eye, peering from a bandaged face. "Most of the pieces seem to be there," the doctor intones in the flat register used by all the cast. Except his memory: and since Clay is assumed to be Vincent, it is Vincent's past that is tied into his brain.

*Suture*, which was helped over the post-production hurdles by the support of Steven Soderbergh, is one of those films where each shot, each sound, is carefully angled, shaded and polished. But the effect is never dry and deliberate: the slow, elegant pacing

establishes a hypnotic rhythm, pulling the viewer right inside to contemplate the nature of identity. The admirable supporting short, Chris Rodley's *Tropical Fish*, adapted from a Raymond Carver story, provides another reason for visiting the ICA Cinema.

**Only You**  
Odeon West End, PG, 108 mins  
Faded valentine in Italy and romance

**Barcelona**  
Odeon Haymarket, 12, 112 mins  
Agreeable successor to 'Metropolitan'

**Suture**  
ICA Cinema, 96 mins  
Hypnotic US melodrama with avant-garde trimmings

**Silent Tongue**  
MGM Shaftesbury Avenue, 12, 101 mins  
Loquacious folly from Sam Shepard

If only *Silent Tongue* lit on up to its title. Then we would have been spared Alan Bates' cowering about the prairie, bottle in hand, green hair perched on florid black hair. Irish blarney numbing ceaselessly from his lips. He gives an excruciating performance, though the finger of blame must be pointed equally at Sam Shepard, who wrote and directed this indigestible mess in 1992. Even with River Phoenix's participation as the grieving, ghost-haunted son of Richard Harris, another ringer lost out west, the film's popular appeal can be rated at zero.

An occasional shot shows a sense of purpose, but for the rest, this combination of psycho-drama, ghost story and folk art exhibit steadily progresses from bizarre to bad, and from bad to worse.

## A movie career timed to perfection

Success has come late — and slowly — to  
**Barcelona** director Whit Stillman

**W**hit Stillman is, in the true meaning of the word, an auteur. He not only scripts, produces and directs his films, he oversees the editing and music, chooses the publicity material, designs the posters, writes the production notes and, in the case of his first film, *Metropolitan*, cleaned up the set after the cast and crew had left. "The vacuuming was actually very therapeutic," he reveals, "although I don't remember sleeping then. I went grey during the course of the shoot."

Grey or not, Stillman still looks remarkably boyish for a 42-year-old. In London to promote *Barcelona*, his second film, Stillman could be forgiven for looking so young — until you discover how long he has been around. Even the gap between his first and second feature is a cause of some embarrassment. The film-maker all but vanished four years ago in a blaze of praise.

"For me, time is a great luxury and a great creative factor," he explains without a hint of defensiveness. "And on an independent film, time is the one thing you have lots of. The studio film is inevitably handicapped by the rush during post-production. But it's not necessarily what you shoot that is important, it's how it's used in the editing room."

"I really believe in time and work. I'm not this genius who can write a script over a weekend. I find the constant reviewing and reconsidering

is where you get the quality. The good thing about being on the job from the script phase through to the editing is that you have the time to tweak the material and constantly improve the film."

Indeed, there is a significant degree of perfectionism about Stillman; he was still modifying the voice-over for *Barcelona* after the completion of filming. In fact, Stillman's sense of comedy is so delicate that a false note here or there could upset the entire apple cart. His strength is that he does not spell out the humour. And, happily, his actors let the rhythm of his editing fine-tune the comedy.

Success for Stillman arrived when *Metropolitan*, at a cost of \$225,000, zapped critics with its intellectual freshness and priceless dialogue, carrying off prizes at the Locarno and Deauville festivals and being award-



Whit Stillman: autobiography

ed "best first feature" by the New York Film Critics Circle. In 1990, Stillman was honoured with an Oscar nomination for best original screenplay.

A series of conversational vignettes, *Metropolitan* examined the rarefied world of what Stillman labelled "the urban haute bourgeoisie". In stark contrast to the street credibility of other independent New York films, Stillman's academic world of self-mockery was a breath of civilised fresh air.

Yet prior to the picture's critical and commercial success, its maker had been treading water for some 17 years. The son of a Democrat politician, Stillman had wanted to be a film-maker since leaving Harvard in 1973. But he worked in publishing instead (for Doubleday) and wrote short stories and articles for *Harper's* and *The Wall Street Journal*. In 1980 he

met his future wife, Irene, a native of Barcelona, and travelled to Spain to arrange the wedding. There, he found work as an agent, representing the foreign sales of up-market foreign films, which helped to lodge his foot in the door of film production.

It was his professional relationship with the Spanish director Fernando Colomo, and his assistance on the latter's low-budget picture *Slyline* (shot in New York), that pointed the way. More specifically, Stillman's time in the Catalan capital sowed the seeds for his second film, which tells the story of two American cousins coping with sex and xenophobia in Spain during the last decade of the Cold War. In fact, the director conceived the idea of *Barcelona* in 1983, long before he wrote *Metropolitan*.

Stillman admits there is a lot of autobiography in his latest film and that both male protagonists — Ted, a prig, and Fred, an obnoxious jingoist — mirror sides of himself. "For me, it's only natural that my characters should reflect myself. In order to retain some authenticity. Some of the best stuff you come up with, you come up with through personal experience. You couldn't possibly think it up." For instance, "when I'm insecure I act like Ted, but when I have permission to be an asshole I'm Fred".

JAMES CAMERON  
WILSON

**RIVER PHOENIX**  
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"Unbearable poignancy... a fitting caper to an extraordinary career"  
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FROM FRIDAY JANUARY 27

## THE FAIREST ISLAND FLING.



RADIO 3'S SCOTTISH EVENING FROM GLASGOW. FEATURES A LIVE CEILIDH AND THE BBC SCOTTISH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA IN CONCERT. TONIGHT 5:15PM-11:30PM, JANUARY 26TH.



## LONDON

**THE MERRY WIVES OF Windsor:** Opening night for Terry Hands's first production at the National, after his long time in charge of the RSC. Denis Quilley plays the fat knight outwitted by the wiles of Bianca Bozzi and Geraldine Fitzgerald.

**Norfolk (Oleth):** South Bank SE1 0171-926 2252. Tonight, 7pm. Then Fri Jan 30, 7.15pm, sat Sat 3pm. 6

**DIOSY FAIRWEATHER:** The jazz cornet player extraordinaire returns to London this week, as usual carrying the banner for the swing-mainstream tradition. His accompanying line-up includes trombone, clarinet and cello. A real treat.

**Pizza Express:** Dean St, W1 0171-439 8722. Tonight, 8pm.

**THE PRIME OF MISS JEAN BRODIE:** Last chance to find out why Patsy Stone's vocal range is so perfectly suited to the role of Miss Brodie's inspirational but capricious schoolteacher. Alan Strachan directs.

**Strand, WC2 0171-930 8800.** Tonight, 7.45pm, mat today and Sat 2.30pm.

## ELSEWHERE

**Bristol:** Libor Pelek conducts the Beethoven/Symphony Orchestra for a powerful new recording of Wagner's *Die Meistersinger*. Under and Meiner's Symphony No 9 in D. Dagmar Peleková is the soloist tonight and Anne

## TODAY'S EVENTS

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Kris Anderson

Events takes over on Saturday. Colston Hall, Colston Street 01272 222822. Tonight, 7.30pm. Then Fri Jan 30, 7.15pm, sat Sat 3pm. 6

**GLASGOW:** Marilyn Stabrowski conducts the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra for the world premiere of a 19th-century Scottish symphony. The programme includes works by Schubert, Schumann and Strauss. Owen Ansell Hughes takes over tomorrow night in Wales for a

**MANCHESTER:** Quinlan Packer, leader of one of the finest chamber ensembles, the Victoria-based Alban Berg Quartet, conducts the Hallé Orchestra for tonight's Austrian programme of different styles and periods. The programme includes works from Schubert, Schumann and Strauss. Owen Ansell Hughes takes over tomorrow night in Wales for a

**ELSEWHERE:** Libor Pelek conducts the Beethoven/Symphony Orchestra for a powerful new recording of Wagner's *Die Meistersinger*. Under and Meiner's Symphony No 9 in D. Dagmar Peleková is the soloist tonight and Anne

## THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

House full, returns only  
Some seats available  
Seats at all prices

**Puter:** Max Stafford-Clark directs in *Puter* with the London Theatre Company. Royal Court, St. Martin's Lane, W1 0171-730 1743. Today, 3.30pm.

**OUT OF A HOUSE WALKED A MAN:** Theatre de Complicite breathes life into the mysterious tales of Don Quixote. The best is the corpse (Kathryn Hunter) who won't come to be buried. National, St. Martin's Lane, W1 0171-328 8821. Today, 2pm and 7.15pm. 5

**THE CLAUDELINE MARRIAGE:** Nyla Hawthorne plays the overlooked Lord Ogleby and directs a strong cast in this good-hearted comedy about 18th-century greed, snobbery and true love. Clarendon, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 0171-494 5411. Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mat Sat, 2.30pm. 5

**THE DANCE OF DEATH:** Synnøve's impressionistic, sometimes comic, view of marriage as hell. Suite de cadavres by Gemma Jones and John Noble. Almeida, Almeida St, N1 0171-359 4404. Mon-Sat, 8pm; mat Sat, 4pm. 4

**KILLER JOE:** Literally absorbing shock-drama by Tracy Letts where a trash-trailer family virtually annihilates itself by employing a hit man to kill their unrepentant, violent father. The original Chicago production that won a First Prize at Edinburgh. Bush, Shaftesbury Street, W1 0171-743 3388. Mon-Sat, 8pm. 5

**THE MAN OF MOORE:** Elvira's wildest comedy, sex, style and even some in-theatre. David Weston directs. Dornier, 7th Floor at St. Paul's. 5

## NEW RELEASES

**INTERVIEW WITH THE VAMPIRE** (18). Tom Cruise shows Brad Pitt the vampire way of life. Dull, over-stuffed version of Anne Rice's book. Director, Neil Jordan.

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OPERA: In Scotland, Mozart is updated to make a stylish and sexy mid-20th century comedy

## Just one thing on their minds

Mozart is being dragged, not complaining too much, into the 20th century this month. After Dr Miller's *Costi* at Covent Garden comes David Leveaux's *Figaro* in Glasgow. It boasts no Armani clothes and no mobile phone, but Almaviva has a nice old Bakelite handset on his desk and Deirdre Clancy's costumes suggest a world of 40 years ago when Counts could still push their servants around a bit and send recalcitrant pageboys off to their private regiment.

But time and place are unimportant. Leveaux's thesis is that *Figaro* is about sex drive and he illustrates the overtone by having a series of couples come into a darkened room, which later turns out to be the quarters assigned to Susanna and Figaro, for a little illicit romp under the voyeuristic eye of Basilio. Hardly necessary, his production, employing a very young cast, fairly bristles with testosterone.

Leveaux's considerable experience in the straight theatre tells. All the complexities of Da Ponte's plot are unravelled and practically every syllable of Jeremy Samuels's racy translation is articulated. Rarely was *Figaro* so clear or aimed so directly at the groin.

At the centre is Lisa Milne's Susanna, buxom and managerial. Here is no soubrette, but a woman who can handle all that comes her way. Occasionally she is allowed to overdo things, such as the half-mockery of the "Sullaria" duet with the Countess, but come the last act and Lisa Milne proves that she is a highly accomplished soprano as well as a jolly and competent figure.

She is to be watched. So, too, is Claire Bradshaw's Cherubino, a mop-headed hunchback, who can turn unwillingly into a military cadet or a rustic bridesmaid with a new set of clothes from the wings. It was an impish

## The Marriage of Figaro Theatre Royal, Glasgow

characterisation, and gleefully sung. For once Figaro towers over the Count. Paul Whelan's baritone has been growing richer and more flexible since he was first heard in the Cardiff Singer of the World Competition a couple of years ago. His six feet and several additional inches give him instant command and to this has been added a new vocal expressiveness. In his last act aria Whelan suggests that Figaro is the one who really has been hurt in these escapades.

Stephen Gadd, meanwhile, is content to play the Count as a dapper figure hovering on the brink of losing control, with a taste for knocking women about as well as seducing them. The two baritones could easily switch roles but then the aristocrats would gain the upper hand. Only with the Countess has David Leveaux failed. Claire Rutter as yet lacks the vocal experience for the part and seems uncertain of her character. There is little sense of the Countess's loneliness, and the voice hardened too much.

The supporting roles have been matched from a Ben Travers farce. Spinster Marcelina (Fiona Kimm), an oily vicar of a Bastille (Alasdair Elliott) and an Antonio (David Morrison) with a nose as red as one of his own flowerpots. All joined to make the Act II finale one of high comedy.

Nicholas McGegan conducted this feisty and unimpaired *Figaro* with appropriate vigour. The performance was dedicated to the memory of Scottish Opera's founder, Alex Gibson, "without whom we would not be here". Agreed. He would have enjoyed it.

JOHN HIGGINS



On the rocks: Claire Rutter (Countess) and Stephen Gadd (Count) in David Leveaux's Scottish Opera staging of *The Marriage of Figaro*

CONCERTS: Modern masters at the Barbican; a challenging programme in Birmingham

## Progress from B to B

LSO/Boulez Barbican

IF BACH, Beethoven and Brahms were the great Bs of a previous era, then Berg, Bartok and Boulez are three giants who similarly stride the 20th century. These were the composers represented in the second of the concerts celebrating Pierre Boulez's 70th birthday on Tuesday evening featured tonight.

Boulez, on the podium, was joined by Jessye Norman for two sets of songs by Berg: the Seven Early Songs and the *Altenberg Lieder*. But it was with his own *Live pour cordes* that the concert began. This is Boulez's orchestral transcription of the *Live pour quatuor* of 1948-49, a work which retains its pungent sense of detail and refinement even when translated to banks of strings. Boulez achieves a veiled, muted quality throughout the piece, and such is the feeling of intimacy that a minor pizzicato explosion becomes a great event.

Something of that chamber-music effect comes across too in Boulez's handling of Berg's Seven Early Songs. Rich and opulent as the harmonies are,

the lavish orchestration, like that of Mahler, is finely calculated. Thus the rapture of "Traumgekrönt" and the final suspense-filled yearning of "Liebesode" were if anything understated, yet perfectly caught by both Boulez and Norman.

The five songs to texts by Peter Altenberg date from only a few years later, but they are notably more dense in conception, more succinct in expression. The Norman/Boulez partnership highlighted many details. Norman's readings are never less than arresting: gloriously voluptuous tone allied to a formidable technique and a compelling delivery. And yet it is possible to wonder whether it is quite a complete performance. Did the burning of the soul in No 5, for example, really bring the required change of tone colour?

Bartok was represented by *The Miraculous Mandarin* — not the usual concert suite, but the more extended version of the ballet. This includes the graphic depictions of the first two (unsuccessful) attempts to kill the mandarin and of the final glowing of his dying body: the eerie effect of the latter was created wordlessly by the London Symphony Chorus. In the ballet's more savage passages there was effective shrieking from the LSO's woodwind and snarling from the brass. Perhaps typically, in Boulez's hands, the woman's seductive waltz was a somewhat cool affair, but the chaise was one to set the pulse racing.

BARRY MILLINGTON

## Beyond the fringe

CBSO/Elder Symphony Hall

FACED with the challenge of demonstrating the unfailing inspiration of Strauss's *Symphonia domestica*, Mark Elder might have been expected to take on nothing but undisputed masterpieces in the rest of the programme. In fact, the main work before the interval was Beethoven's Triple Concerto, which needs exceptional advocacy to sustain it. The overture, too, was from the fringe of the repertoire.

There was no problem at least with Weber's *Ruler of the Spirits*, which was dispatched with the eagerness of a conductor with every confidence in the quality of the material and the brilliance of an orchestra sure of the effectiveness of its scoring. No one strayed any doubts about the Triple Concerto either, but, in an interpretation based on a fundamental misunderstanding, that was not enough.

While it is tempting to think of the Triple Concerto as a concerto for piano trio and orchestra, and so to invite a famous chamber ensemble like the Beaux Arts Trio to perform it, that is not what the work is about. It needs

full-scale concerto soloists at least in the violin and cello parts — Beethoven was careful not to entrust too much to the pianist dedicatee of the work, the Archduke Rudolph — and gains little from the give and take of chamber musicians being polite. If the cellist, Peter Wiley, was outstanding it was not because he projected himself more aggressively than his slender-sounding violinist colleague, Ida Kavalian, but because his phrasing was so elegant and, within a limited range, his colouring so well chosen.

As for the major responsibility of the evening, Mark Elder and the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra fulfilled it impressively. If the *Symphonia domestica* failed in any way it was only in a reduction of impact towards the end, as though too little had been left in reserve to add a final layer of argumentative intensity to an emotional 24 hours in the life of the Strauss family.

The conductor's faith in the symphonic coherence of the work is not misplaced, however, and it does nothing but good to concentrate on structural continuity instead of expressive excess. There were all kinds of eloquence, from the affectionate oboe d'amore in particular, and all kinds of heroism, not least from the hard-pressed horn section. But the beauty of the performance was in the clarity of uncommonly well-balanced textures and the skilful integration of detail.

GERALD LARNER

## ENTERTAINMENTS

## CINEMAS

**CLAPHAM HOUSE** (18). Tom Cruise shows Brad Pitt the vampire way of life. Dull, over-stuffed version of Anne Rice's book. Director, Neil Jordan.

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## OPERA &amp; BALLET

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## CABARET

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## THEATRES

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**CLAPHAM**



# Nightmare imaginings from hell

Debra Craine sees Lindsay Kemp bring his grotesque and beautiful visions to London in a Gothic Cinderella

Few theatrical artists live out their fantasies to the extent that Lindsay Kemp does. Whether it be exorcising his own private demons, or trawling through a kaleidoscopic imagination, Kemp's stage creations are inextricably bound up with the rich day-dreams and nightmares of his own life. It is his strength as a performing artist and his, in the past, been his weakness too. Kemp loves to be loved; the problem is, when does consuming artistry cross the line into self-glorification?

Kemp has not always seen this line coming in his grandiose dance-dramas; sometimes the excesses of his vision have swamped the stunning imagery at its core. But with *Cinderella - A Gothic Opera*, presented at Sadler's Wells as part of the London International Mime Festival, Kemp shows us that when his creative gifts are properly harnessed, he is capable of extraordinary spectacles of almost hallucinatory power. *Cinderella* is helped by a tight narrative that lends structure to his ideas (although the show is slow to catch fire) and by a glorious string and percussion score from his frequent collaborator, Carlos Miranda, that establishes a musical choreography within which Kemp and his company can act out their Victorian melodramatic-pantomime.

This being Kemp, *Cinderella* is fairytale at its most violent and perverse. Father is a monster who tries to rape our heroine; Prince Charming is a debauched homosexual lusting after his handsome guardsman; Cinderella herself is a grasping social climber secretly in love with another man. There is murder (including

ing patricide and infanticide), incest, child abuse, insurance and general mayhem.

But this being Kemp, there is parody too. The ugly sisters (one male, one female) are a hilarious music-hall double-act (a nod to Frederick Ashton); the Prince is a shoe fetishist who chases Cinderella just to get his hands on her magic glow-in-the-dark slip-

**This, being Kemp, is fairytale at its most violent and perverse**

pers (*Wizard of Oz*). The setting, too, has that characteristic Kemp twist: mid-19th century in a tropical colony. So the sisters are decked out for Carnival, and the ghost of Cinderella's mother is a voodoo priestess. The Imperial Palace is Hapsburgian, bizarrely transplanted to steamy climes.

As its title implies, this is music theatre, and as much Miranda's triumph as Kemp's (with help from a wonderful Amazonia Quartet in the pit). The costumes, by Yolanda Sonnabend, are another plus: colourful yet suitably tacky. The decor, by Mark Baldwin and Kemp, is by way of Hammer Horror. Of choreography in the conventional sense, there is none. The narrative is advanced by visual example, and the text is sung (Italian mostly). The movement is typically slow motion, as though seen through a drug-induced haze.

The performers are excellent, particularly the American soprano Annette Merweather, who sings the part of Cinderella's mother (rather unfortunately dressed like a Christmas tree out of season); and Marco Berri as Dandini, Captain of the Imperial Guard, object of Cinderella's affection and the man plotting the overthrow of the Prince and his mother.

But the audience still comes to see the legend himself. Now in his mid-50s, with 30 years of performances behind him, and having abandoned Britain in favour of Italy, Kemp remains one of the greatest stage creatures this country has ever produced. As both Cinderella's father and the Prince, his control of every gesture is absolute, the stillness at his centre mesmerising. His father is ominous; his crazed Prince resembles a degenerate victim of the opium wars. Whether wild, weird or just plain wacky, Kemp compels his audience to watch his every move.

Just as remarkable is the Cinderella of Nuria Moreno, for the past 12 years a mainstay of Kemp's company. When we first see her, she is an albino outcast, half human, half beast. Gradually, she comes alive into a womanhood fuelled by greed for revenge: emaciated, ghostly, a waif with a heart of steel, and again that astonishing command of stillness.

When, after all the trials of their life, their power finally stripped away, Cinderella steers a wheelchair-bound Prince across the stage in an elegiac epilogue, they could be unreconstructed flower children, united by the wounds of a cruel world - grotesque angels locked in an eternity of love and dependence.



One of the greatest stage creatures Britain has ever produced: whether wild, weird or just plain wacky, Lindsay Kemp's *Cinderella* proves that he is still capable of compelling his audience to watch his every move

THEATRE: Marguerite Duras revived; a modern-day Cassandra in Brooklyn; and more of the London International Mime Festival

MARGUERITE DURAS is the least dramatic of modern playwrights and yet, in her own peculiar way, one of the most. Her characters, especially her women, reflect, ponder and muse, their thoughts and feelings rippling this way and that like water in a wayward breeze. Yet they are always in crisis and often at a point of no return. That internal breeze could, you feel, wash them away. That internal breeze could, you feel, wash them away.

The result is drama that we roastbite, as the French used to call it, don't find all that easy to swallow. We tend to like our plays meaty and direct, not half-lost in a mixture of delicate spices. So it doesn't in the least surprise me to find Lisa Forrell's revival of *Suzanna Andler* deep in the fringe, even though the title character is played by an appealing actress as Susan Hampshire. If Kenneth Branagh and Emma Thompson were to be cast as one of Duras's uneasy duos - not a bad idea, actually - I doubt that even they would bring the charabancs roaring in.

Suzanna Andler, who feels empty and desolate, is wondering whether to rent an empty, desolate villa for what could, one fears, be a pretty empty, desolate summer with Michel, her journalist lover. As he realises, not without resentment, her heart is only

## Ever so gently into turmoil

Suzanna Andler  
BAC

parody in what seems to be her first extra-marital liaison. It is more with her husband Jean, a rich philanthropist whom she claims to think a mindless money-grubber and even to want killed.

He appears only in conversation and on the phone. But the inference is that his heart is also with her, even though he has urged her to have affairs and turns out to know all about this one.

Duras deliberately eschews dramatics where other people would embrace them. When Suzanna confronts one of Jean's mistresses, it is less a case of sparks flying than of candles flickering. And that is not because of any obvious failure on the part of Hampshire or Bryony Brind, whose Monique is sleek, elegant and urbane if vocally a touch awkward at times.

Duras's women either do not know their feelings, or keep them hidden, or both. They are withdrawn, emotionally complex, inscrutable, so-

cially sophisticated, and French. Duras's men, as witness Jay Benedict's puzzled, worried lover, are not a lot coarser. It would be as easy to juggle with mercury as send her characters flitting round the stage.

That said, I wondered if Hampshire could not have searched harder for the inner



Understated passion: Bryony Brind, Stash Kirkbride, Susan Hampshire and Jay Benedict in *Suzanna Andler*

darkness. I seem to recall Eileen Atkins finding when she played the role 22 years ago. She is a most attractive actress: warm, vulnerable, and almost too easy to like. When she reaches for anger, as she sometimes does here, it is hard to believe her fully, and when she talks of killing Jean or herself, it is harder still.

It is grief and a sense of loss, not bitterness, that marks her performance. And touching though all this is, it is really quite enough for Marguerite Duras.



Understated passion: Bryony Brind, Stash Kirkbride, Susan Hampshire and Jay Benedict in *Suzanna Andler*

## Drowning and waving

BAC in Battersea is showing some good Mime Festival fare. *She'll Be Coming Round The Mountain* was the best work I saw on the Edinburgh Fringe last year: a poignant clown-inspired depiction of a little girl and her father searching for love in a war zone of empty shoes.

Meanwhile, the female trio *Brouhaha*, also proving a quirky pleasure, also grafting clowning into expressionistic physical theatre with a storyline. *Light At Night*, a folk tale retold by surrealists, is about three fishermen who let their sister drown. They suffer retribution in the form of a baby found in their coffin. After sweetly breast-feeding, it pipes up and relentlessly broadcasts their crime.

This is a comic glance into guilty consciences and fantasies of motherhood, with the local-melting logic of a nightmare. One minute the three sisters are staggering under an outside coffin; the next, they are careering about with it round their waists like cancelets on punishing rapids. It becomes a craft as they snore inside, then - upended - a space rocket as they land on the moon, desperate to ditch the infant squawker.

Created through improvisation, the piece is full of surprises, from a spoof-ballad

### MIME FESTIVAL

performed by undertakers with false noses, to puppets sliding through space. Paul Hunter directs with playful invention, though some sequences need tightening. Preceding *Brouhaha*, *Le Baron* - Mike Ashcroft's solo sidi on conducting - is surely work-in-progress. He flails amusingly, stabbing his stick in the imaginary direction of strings who switch uncomprehendingly to the score for the shower scene in *Psycho*. But there's too much slack.

*The Man Who Preferred To Stand* at the Purcell Room was a major disappointment. Etienne Decroux is solemnly hailed as the teacher of Jean-Louis Barrault and Marcel Marceau. Unfortunately, his reconstructed mime-dance pieces now look sorely dated. *Le Combat Antique*, set to Schoenberg, is a painful affair starring two chaps in loin-cloths battling like Neanderthals who didn't make the grade in ballet class.

*L'Usine* combines some strong on-masse pistoning and tribal stamps. But soloist Steve Wasson waves his arms to Bach once too often. The technically shaky Théâtre de l'Age Fou's near-deification

of Decroux, projecting his face in the sky, is absurd. At the start we are treated to a recording of the great man mumbled a pearl of wisdom: in a world sitting down, mime stands up. Before the end, some of the audience took this a step further: they walked.

KATE BASSETT

The faithful were predictably ecstatic about them all, of course. Better still though, Scott offered more than enough evidence of his particular talent in this one-man show to make converts of the previously uncommitted.

ALAN JACKSON

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## Betrayal for the sake of a quiet life

The Yiddish Trojan Women Cockpit

A PLAY billed as swinging "from side-aching hilarity to heart-wrenching tragedy" does not really sound inviting, even if "propelled by... New York Jewish banter". But you never can tell, and though I emerged with sides unaching, the closing scenes do indeed wrench the heart.

Maria Charles plays Deborah, a grandmother as old as the century - the time is the early 1980s, the place Brook-

lyn - who at last remembers the day when the Cossacks rode into the Polish shtetl where she was born and murdered her Cassandra-like sister-in-law. And while she was being killed, Deborah stayed hidden in the cellar, in the arms of her husband's brother.

At the start we see Deborah trim and busy, all got up in a peach-coloured outfit, ready to marry her fifth husband. Some months later, with her mind now rambling, the long-dead Rivkah returns to her, prophesying the horror that no one wanted to listen to. What strongly contributes to this scene's eerie power is that the actress playing Rivkah

(Joanna Foster) has up till that moment played Abby, one of Deborah's grandchildren and fated to be another Cassandra.

The modern atrocity that Abby has witnessed is American involvement in Guatemala. Feverish with desperate grief, she tries to convince the others that we should not look away from crimes for the sake of a quiet life. Her sister Brenda (Deborah Weston) rubs her conscience.

Cousin Tess (Susan Sylvester) hovers between an impulse to do the honourable thing and a preference for pleasures close at hand. Carole Braverman's rich play explores, among other things, betrayal, and even those other things, chief of which being Tess's love affair with a baker she rescues on the freeway, are rooted in two betrayals and rotting by a third. The nervous progress of

this love is beautifully observed. Elsewhere Sylvester's role is under-characterised, but in her scenes with Roman Vibert's Luke she catches the balance between hesitancy and demand.

Vibert's development from ordinary horny guy to troubled lover is even more interesting to follow, and Braverman skilfully prepares the catastrophe the couple bring on themselves.

The argument of the play remains open. We do what we do to survive but should not numb ourselves to what we are doing. Hettie Macdonald's direction sensitively threads the strands together, on a square stage designed by Idit Nathan, supported by a million books and lit by three crystal chandeliers. What will learning and elegance profit us if our souls are dead?

JEREMY KINGSTON

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# The war-drum throbs no longer

R.W. Johnson on a study of the Zulus, who defied an empire but have yet to find a role



A newly initiated young Samburu warrior; his hair will not be cut again until it is waist-length. The Samburu of northern Kenya are among the last traditional warrior peoples of Africa; this is one of many superb pictures by Thomasia Magor in her *African Warriors* (Harvill, £40)

The Zulus are the one African people who are worthy not just of a fate but a destiny," wrote William Rees-Mogg recently. This sort of admiring romanticisation is common in Britain, for nobody with any sense of history has forgotten what the Zulus once did to a British army at Isandhlwana and Rorke's Drift. It is, after all, reassuring to believe that the African tribe capable of giving a bloody nose to the British Empire at its height has unique qualities. For generations now the Zulus have been celebrated as the classic embodiment of the noble savage. This sort of thing infuriates the modern *marxist* historians of the Zulus, who rightly observe that it threads through the still strong monarchial tradition of the Zulus to a conservative identification with Mangosuthu Buthezi's Inkatha Freedom Party. This radical (and pro African National Congress) school of historians wants to insist that ethnicity does not matter, indeed that it would not really exist but for the unscrupulous manipulation of reactionary politicians (for which read Buthezi).

Stephen Taylor treads with care through this minefield, trying not to take sides. Nonetheless, he is likely to run into trouble with the radicals not only because he argues that there really is a distinctive Zulu identity, but because he adopts an unashamedly biographical (and thus highly "incorrect") approach. His narrative pivots around the figures of Shaka, Dingane, Cetshwayo, Shepetone and Buthezi. It is none the worse for that, although he is perhaps a little light on the social and economic background to the present discontents. Taylor has read all the standard literature and also wandered around contemporary Zulu land talking to people, so he is able to present what is otherwise unavailable — a handy history from Shaka to the 1994 election.

The question is, will his book displace Donald Morris's classic *The Washing of the Spears: A History of the Zulu People* (now handsomely reissued in Pimlico paperback at £12.50) as the volume visitors to Natal read for a quick fix on the Zulu question? Morris's book makes compulsive reading and also tells one a great deal about the history of Durban, Natal's largest city. It will remain indispensable. But where Morris leaves the story in the 1880s, Taylor's section on the last century will clinch the issue in his favour for many a visiting journalist.

**SHAKA'S CHILDREN**  
A History of the Zulu People  
By Stephen Taylor  
HarperCollins, £18

Taylor is doubtless right when faced with the terrible intra-Zulu strife of recent years that has left over 20,000 dead, to look beyond the mere labels of the ANC versus IFP contest. The irony — shared by much of the rest of Africa — is that in one sense the Zulus prospered as never before under white rule, for their subjugation brought a degree of law and order and produced the conditions for a rapid population increase. In less than a century a million

Zulus have become some 8.5 million today. The consequent pressure on land, over-grazing, and the persistence of military traditions and a divided clan structure would probably have been enough to produce violent unrest even without apartheid. To some extent the ANC and IFP have merely put labels on that struggle. But the greater irony, visible to anyone who has observed the Zulu civil war of the 1980s, is that descendants of those militants who fought the British in 1879 are the conservative traditionalists today, while many of today's ANC militants are the descendants of those who sided with British colonialism against the Zulu resistance in 1879. The fact that Buthezi has successfully appropriated the heroic tradition of Zulu resistance for Inkatha is a considerable embarrassment to an ANC now in search of anti-colonial heroes around which to centre a new history. More recently, the picture has become further muddled by the ANC's wooing of the Zulus against Buthezi.

What the future holds is anyone's guess. But if the drift and disorganisation which presently characterises Mandela's government were to persist or worsen, the possibility of an autonomous Zulu state in KwaZulu/Natal would resurface, for the Zulus, the largest and proudest black group, are notably disadvantaged within the new order. Although for the moment post-election euphoria continues to mask such divisions, as South African politics recastles it would be surprising if the question of Zulu identity and interests did not once again move to centre stage.

The Holocaust and its aftermath: the victim who escaped, the witness who was ignored, and the scapegoat who was tried

## Nobody would believe him

Jan Karski's is one of the most uplifting stories of our times. Elie Wiesel, who knows a thing or two about such things, called it "a masterpiece of courage, integrity and humanism". His real name was Jan Kozielewski. Born in 1914 into a patriotic middle-class Lodz family, educated by the Jesuits, devout by nature, he was a pretty conventional Pole of his day. He was no anti-Semite, but he did not want to get involved when he saw Jewish fellow students being victimised. He even found himself attending the Nazi *Parade* at Nuremberg in 1935 along with selected foreign guests, by virtue of having briefly been a member of a Polish youth movement. He was a little envious of the Germans for their sense of national destiny. It is this background that lends such significance to what was to come next.

Kozielewski was a budding diplomat, but he was also a reserve officer. Like so many of his comrades caught up in the *Blitzkrieg*, he did little fighting and a lot of walking in September 1939. He endured Soviet and then German captivity, before escaping and joining the Polish underground. He was used as a courier between Warsaw and Sikorski's government in exile, which involved capture by the Gestapo, brutal torture, and hair-raising escape. In October 1942 he set off on the mission that was to prove the crucial event in his life. Aside from the information from the underground "government", he carried a number of messages from political groups, including Jewish organisations, to their counterparts in London and the West in general. Leon Feiner, one of the Jewish leaders who briefed him about the Nazi atrocities, said that nobody in the West, not even Jews, would ever

"IN MY capacity as literary editor of *The Jewish Chronicle*, I have frequently been approached by Holocaust survivors with stories to tell," says Gerald Jacobs in the acknowledgement of *Sacred Games*. He was right however to yield to the story brought to him by Miklos Hammer, a Hungarian Jew who entered the Nazi death-machinery at Auschwitz-Birkenau and emerged at the end of the war in Dachau. *Sacred Games* offers nothing new to anyone familiar with the literature of the Holocaust, but Gerald Jacobs deserves credit for skilfully organising Hammer's anecdotes. The book, apart from some of the early scene-setting, is constantly gripping and frequently horrifying. Hammer as a young medical student found himself in one of Hungary's special Jewish labour battalions. This is

## Dodging the final solution

**Tibor Fischer**  
*SACRED GAMES*  
By Gerald Jacobs  
Hamish Hamilton, £16.99

While the account of Hammer's harrowing and subsequent survival is fascinating, the most telling parts of the book are those of the bit-players: a beautiful girl offering her virginity to Hammer because she wants him to be the first rather than an SS rapist; one of France's leading rabbis suddenly snapping in Auschwitz and chanting with the devotion of a football fan, "there is no God in this earth!"; Hammer's benign family doctor who becomes a monster. Hammer literally crawls into Dachau in the last days of the Reich, "a bag of sticks", and takes advantage of the chaos to lose his Jewishness and claim an English identity

as the camp is liberated by the Americans. Through a mixture of good fortune and kindness he is transported to Britain where he is at first assumed to be a German and interned with Otto Dietrich, Hitler's former press chief. Dietrich is curious to hear about Hammer's experiences in the camps. Their conversations are an eerie precursor of the publications that can still be found in certain bookshops in Munich. The deaths in the camps were, according to Dietrich, caused by the "vulgar brutes" in charge and in any case the Final Solution was "the work of Himmler. An obsessive psychological cripple. This was not National Socialism, my friend."

The book closes with Hammer settled in Britain. On a business trip to Czechoslovakia in 1947, he meets his family briefly at the Hungarian border. Later, reprimanded by his father for not looking back after he left them, he says: "I was turning my back on Hungary, not on you, father." While no one would quibble about Hammer's right to turn

## Israeli justice on trial

To those familiar with the writings of the Harvard lawyer Alan Dershowitz, the style of Yoram Sheftel's important but irritating book will come as little surprise. Sheftel is a bright, impressive and proud man. He is also arrogant and self-important. He writes about the trial of John Demjanjuk, accused of being the foul concentration camp murderer Ivan the Terrible, with passion, occasional humour, and great disparagement of both the prosecution and his fellow defence lawyers. He ends up getting the leading defence counsel, the person who recruited him to the case, fired from it — for incompetence. Sheftel clearly wanted to take the lead, for he had become convinced that this was nothing more or less than a show-trial. It was no small thing for Sheftel, a hard-line Israeli nationalist, to take on the case of Demjanjuk, who had been extradited to Israel from the United States to face trial. Sheftel's reputation, in a country where the Holocaust is regarded as a national disaster (despite the fact that it was something which befell the whole of European Jewry before the state's existence), sank as low as it could. His own very proper feeling that anyone accused of any crime is entitled to a defence, and that in this case there was good evidence to make it likely that Demjanjuk was not Ivan the Terrible at all, made him all the more certain that Dem-



Demjanjuk (top left) with video of his forged SS identity card; Sheftel is bottom left

**Julia Neuberger**  
*THE DEMJANJUK AFFAIR*  
The rise and fall of a show-trial  
By Yoram Sheftel  
Vicar Gollancz, £18.99

about Demjanjuk's identity. He threw doubt on the reliability of photo spreads as a means of identification. But it is the latter part of the book which causes real concern. It became clear to Sheftel that the West German, American, and Soviet authorities had all known that Ivan the Terrible was one Ivan Marchenko and not Demjanjuk at all. Yet they had proceeded with extradition, prepared to see an innocent man go to the gallows. Sheftel was obviously convinced that the whole trial had been nothing but an attempt to keep the memory of the Holocaust alive in the Israeli mind. But that doesn't explain the other governments' involvement. Nor does Sheftel really explain why the appeal to the Supreme Court which quashed the original guilty verdict, nevertheless allowed all sorts of stays of execution of Demjanjuk's release. Sheftel tells a fascinating

and disturbing story in which he emerges as a hero. He had acid thrown in his eyes, one of which was blinded, and one former judge, who had been about to join the defence team, Dov Elan, committed suicide just before. This was a fearful time, which puts the Israeli judiciary in a poor light. But despite Sheftel's bravery and hard work, there is too much criticism of others and too little modesty. There is also too much about fast cars, and the *femme fatale* in his life. The story of this show-trial is an important one, but unless we understand the need Israel felt for a show-trial, we will not understand their response to the Holocaust, to the outside world, to the anti-Semites who deny the Holocaust ever took place. Another author needs to take the story further, to question the Israeli, American, Russian, and German authorities thoroughly, and explain why it was that this case ever came to court at all.

## THE TIMES



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Peter Ackroyd hails a very American reaffirmation of the central literary tradition of the West

## The prophet of Bloomsday

It is a pity, perhaps, that such a book as this has to be written; but Harold Bloom is Professor of English at New York University, and is therefore a member of an endangered species which must protect itself. A fellow academic tells him that Hemingway has been dropped from a fiction course in favour of "a rather inadequate Chicano short-story writer" on the grounds that "her students would thus be better prepared to live in the United States". Another colleague declares that "we are all feminist critics" — to which Bloom adds, with a dark humour in evidence throughout this book, "That is the rhetoric suitable for an occupied country, one that expects no liberation from liberation".

But if this is a necessary book, it is also one that, within its own sonority, carries the trumpet note of doom — you cannot divert the lemmings once they have reached the cliff, and Bloom can only helplessly note the mad flight towards "feminism, African-American culturalism, and all the other

politically correct enterprises of our moment".

So what does he suggest in their place? We might look again at Dante or Milton; Goethe and Cervantes might make an acceptable substitute for Alice Walker or Maya Angelou, while Johnson or Shakespeare offer a diversion from "dirty realism". His list of 25 "canonical" authors, put forward in an assertive spirit to those students who (apparently) find *Julius Caesar* too long for their attention span, also includes Austen, Chaucer, Whitman and Tolstoy.

Bloom is in fact engaged in a very American enterprise in order to fight a very American problem. It is difficult to think of an English or European critic who would consider drawing up a "canon" made up from so many dissimilar works from so many diverse cultures. F.R. Leavis tried his own home-grown version with disastrous results: it was a mistake, on his part, to turn the reading of literature into some secular substitute for religious experience and the notion of a "great tradition" corrupted more readers than a thousand television book programmes. When literature becomes a duty, then it ceases to be a pleasure. Yet, in the present climate of disaffection and ignorance, *The Western Canon* has become a necessary book. And only an American could have written it.

Of course Bloom bears the marks of his own particular culture. He refers constantly to the literary inheritance as a form of challenge, or "agon", in which living writers are struggling against the dead.

THE WESTERN CANON

By Harold Bloom

Macmillan, £20



Bloom: an endangered species

Like such American contemporaries as Norman Mailer, he seems to view works of poetry or prose as part of some strenuous competitive process. Mailer directs the competition against the novelists around him, but Bloom sees it happening through the centuries. There is more of New York than Mount Helicon in the comment that "...the Canon not only results from a contest but is itself an ongoing contest". Which means that "Dante in a way is a stronger Milton, and his overcoming of rivals, ancient and contemporary, is even more convincing than Milton's triumph..." There are occasions when he might be a sports reporter rather than a literary critic.

It is also important that Bloom creates a level field for the writers involved in his hypothetical struggle. He is not interested in cultural and historical contexts, perhaps for the very good reason that they may then become blanching by the cultural determinism of neo-Marxist critics. But the no doubt unanticipated consequence is that all these writers, taken out of their native lands, become Americanised, part of some vast competitive drive in an alien field.

Bloom is very interested in the powerful "characters" which are thrown up in the process. He celebrates Goethe's "unique and overwhelming personality", Montaigne's "highly original personality" and various critics "vehement and colourful personalities". In this he takes his cue from Johnson, who reworked the art of biographical criticism. But Bloom lacks Johnson's restraint; instead he is imbued with a strain of neo-romantic fervour which allows him to speak continually of the "sublime" and to invoke the principles of "strangeness" and "originality" as the canonical qualities of great writing. He is also preoccupied by the actual characters within various fictions and imagines, for example, Falstaff and the Wife of Bath in some titanic confrontation. He is not very far here from Hazlitt or Lamb, but he is a Romantic essayist who has also been touched by Pater's aestheticism. It is hard, however, to think of a better tradition for any literary critic.

*The Western Canon* is not a book of criticism or of scholarship; it is an act of celebration and of self-

affirmation. It is hard to argue with it, therefore: it would be like taking an exalted man to one side, and reciting the reasons why he should calm down. There is no reason why Professor Bloom should not extol the virtues of Chaucer or Browning at the top of his voice — everyone in the English Departments of the universities ought to be doing so — but the reviewer can only feebly murmur: "I agree, but..."

There are in fact problems with the idea of a "canon", since there is some danger in presenting literature as a form of sacred scripture. Shakespeare is not, and should not become, what Bloom calls him here — a "mortal god". In that direction lies the debasement of the religious spirit, and an approach to literature which will in the end destroy its true efficacy and power. Certain readers would rather be amused by Firbank or Waugh than uplifted by George Eliot — a criticism which discounts such reactions is incomplete.

Yet it is hard to argue long or hard with a critic who writes so acutely on artists as diverse as Whitman and Thesen, Pablo Neruda and Emily Dickinson. One can only applaud, for example, when he describes the feminist "readings" of Virginia Woolf — "Woolf, the lover of the prose of Sir Thomas Browne, would have suffered acutely confronting the manifestos of those who assert that they write and teach in her name. Herself the last of the high aesthetes, she has been swallowed up by remorseless Puritans, for whom the beautiful in literature is only another version of the cosmetics industry". And to say of Freud that he is "proliferated Shakespeare" is little short of genius. That is why Bloom's enthusiasm is always more important than his occasional stridency and, although there may be a few doubtful passages in the narrative, *The Western Canon* remains a wonderful and, indeed, invaluable reaffirmation of the central literary tradition.



Updike evaluates his women with an unsympathetic gaze

## Masculinity as ravenous as it is redundant

The 22 stories in John Updike's *The Afterlife* seem not so much to run along a common theme as to circle one. They hover with increasing weariness over an intransigent collection of facts, as if in the hope that some as yet undevoured meaning will attempt an escape from them. The facts are those of ageing, masculinity, and the bridled sexuality in which these result. But Updike's vision of their intrinsic nature seems here to depend as much upon tricks of the light as truth to catch their likeness.

This does not necessarily signify a failure of his considerable powers, but rather their detachment from the fiction in which they rule. Character, place and event in these stories are often merely a series of thin shades through which Updike's prose glows and glares, his elegant, melodious voice with its packed, conceptual atoms of thought spilling from the crude moulds of his conundrums. In places the stories themselves become a distant pageant, drowned out by a closer stream of unaffixed narrative which, although running roughly parallel, is not circumscribed by its drama.

Updike's afterlife lies beyond the Rubicon of middle age, a place populated by men whose memories are beginning to outstrip their bodies: behind them a pile-up of wrecked marriages, before them the descent into physical deterioration and death. "Just two or three seconds, between challenge and response, between achievement and gratification, but enough to tell him that something was out of sync. He was going through the motions, and all the younger people around him knew it."

Beneath the spreading gloom of this incipient redundancy, the tide of recollection rises; the past becomes more accessible than the future, while in the waiting-room of the present activity is restricted and tedious. In "Short Easter", a man irrevocably lodged in a twilight sphere falls abruptly asleep and dreams of his childhood: when he wakes "amid that unnatural ache of resurrection — the weight, the atrocious weight of coming again to life!" the boundaries of his life have become confused. "He did not at first know what room it was, of the many his long life had occupied... A curve of terror chilled his abdomen, silvery and sore." Despite the number of his years, he fears that his solidity is only an illusion; his momentary defection from consciousness has shown him a glimpse of his own insubstantiality.

In "George and Vivian", even a man taken to fuelling himself with fresh injections of marriage to younger women recognises that what he requires is merely the simulation of a more potent era. "Maybe a baby would calm her down... But the concept of one more dependant, his little life sticking out past his into the

future like a diving board, made him dizzy."

Despite being filled with such insights, with the poetry of consciousness, the failure of many of these stories rests on a certain inadequacy of conception, a half-thought-out atmosphere in which too much remains blurred or unrealised while the narrative voice continues to impale its truths. A charge of sheer fatuousness can be made against "The Rumour", in which a rumour that a married man is having a homosexual affair is held to implant in him the idea of doing so; or "Cruise", where a ship full of American tourists touring the Greek Islands is tepidly beset by mythological happenings, but in the better stories the problem is more likely one of scope.

Updike has always permitted himself moments of brutishness, but the pure ego which here radiates from his compositions, the ravenous, slightly repellent masculinity, is in danger of reducing everything around it to cipher. Extra-marital promiscuity, Updike's stock-in-trade, makes its dutiful appearances, but the very weariness which by

Rachel Cusk

THE AFTERLIFE

and other stories

By John Updike

Hamish Hamilton, £14.99

now could have lent it interest has hardened instead into a cruel gloss. Updike evaluates his women with an unsympathetic, and somewhat un-

pleasant gaze: not for them the tender dispensations of vicissitudinous middle age, but rather an ongoing assessment of their fitness as objects of desire. The failure here need not be one of sexual politics; surely it is criticism enough of a writer to say that a large proportion of his characters are no more sentient or complex than a herd of cattle.

An interesting contrast arises in the several stories which focus on men whose elderly mothers have died or are dying. "A Sandstone Farmhouse" beautifully recounts a man's intermittent vigil over his mother's last months, the two of them "survivors of a larger party that had once occupied this house". The sphere of her life, which contains his own, is encompassed in "her body arching over his life like a firmament", a promise of eternity which will soon be broken. In "His Mother Inside Him", the mother is "the full tracery of his perceptions and reactions... and when she died he became a custodian of... a thousand tiny nuanced understandings of her, a once commonplace language of which he was now the sole surviving speaker". The death of parents is the real death of childhood, a latent abandonment, something which Updike identifies as one of the most painful aspects of middle age. In these stories, the best of the collection, the nugget of truth is palpable and sheds light elsewhere: the real nature of greed and desire — indeed the problem of masculinity — as it besets Updike's men, is "not so much the fear of death as the sensation that his life was too small".

## Sexual intercourse did not begin in 1963

The preface of *The Facts of Life*, which surveys sex manuals of the last three centuries, opens coyly: "This book is scarcely an instance of *ejaculatio praecox*." The first guide to be used widely in England was Aristotle's *Masterpiece*. Needless to say Aristotle had very little to do with its contents. These changed radically in later editions as society became more prudish. In the earlier versions women were allowed to have a fairly strong sexuality and many similar qualities to men: "For those that have the strictest searches been found women are but men turned outside in..."

Later manuals have odder titles. Who would dare to go to Dillons or Waterstones these days and ask for a copy of *Onania*, or the *Hainous Sin of Self-Pollution*? Masturbation was the target of a great many diatribes through the ages. Beddoes even blamed Swift's decline in sanity on it. Yet, curiously, masturbation might have been the prime objective of many purchasers of the manuals that condemned it. Sensibly, Porter and Hall make no assumption that readers automatically followed the advice of the books they purchased or necessarily agreed with them.

Roy Porter wrote the first five chapters and Lesley Hall chapters six to eleven. Perhaps the publishers were making a worthy attempt to cover both a male and female point of view. Unfortunately, this makes for a certain awkwardness in the book's structure. Occasionally too, one author repeats the other. Porter's chapters read like lively lectures on a series of themes covering the Restoration to the Victorian period. The most enjoyable is that on "Quackery and Erotica". I enjoyed the thought of James Graham's "Celestial bed". It was powered by 150wt of magnets and could be hired for the night for £50, a considerable sum in the late 18th century. Graham was also an advocate of voyeurism and gives an interesting anecdote: "An old woman at Norwich, who had no teeth, sitting in the market selling greens, saw a horse copulating

with a mare, when she first observed the horse, she happened to have a shilling between her gums; her whole soul was fixed on the motions of the horse and mare, she was so violently agitated that she bit the shilling in two!"

Lesley Hall deals in turn with the restrictive Victorian period, the emergence of sexual science, the spread of contraception and a gradual change in attitudes.

Vern Bullough's *Science in the Bedroom* charts the history of sexology and the personalities of those who created this new science. Many of the figures in this field had an axe to grind — homosexuals or feminists who wanted equality. Any academic who ventured into the field of sexology risked his reputation. It was classed as a Jewish science by the Nazis. There were a great many Jewish doctors involved in it. Freud and Magnus Hirschfeld were the best-known. Unfortunately, much of the information that others collected was seized and destroyed and the authors sent to concentration camps. As well as being non-responsible sex research could expose an individual to ridicule. Some of its later exponents ended up with nicknames like "Goat Gland" Brinkley.

Vern Bullough's book overlaps with that of Porter and Hall, but is not limited to Britain alone. Apart from the bravery of sexology's pioneers, another picture emerges — that of the spread of venereal infections. In 1909 it was acknowledged that about 20 per cent of males in the US Army were infected with syphilis or gonorrhoea. Yet at the beginning of the First World War, the soldier was portrayed as a knight crusading for democracy who kept himself pure for his lady fair by abstaining from alcohol and sex.

Needless to say the real-life men did not live up to this image. A free issue of condoms rather than saintly advice might have prevented the aftermath: "A vast number of Americans who suffered the sequelae of third-stage syphilis and were confined to Veterans' Hospitals in the 1930s and beyond."

Fiona Pitt-Kethley

THE FACTS OF LIFE

The Creation of Sexual Knowledge in Britain

1650-1950

By Roy Porter

and Lesley Hall

Yale University Press, £19.95

SCIENCE IN THE BEDROOM

A History of Sex Research

By Vern L. Bullough

HarperCollins, £16.99



Mythological scene, after Paolo Farinato (1524-1606), from *The Pleasures of Love: An Erotic Guide to the Senses* by Elizabeth Nash and Richard Fox (Pavilion, £20); strictly for the unshockable

## From the gates of Hades to a season in Hell

CHRISTOPHER Logue's versions of Homer have won much praise. "Never was blood bloodier or fate more fatal," said Louis MacNeice of an early installment. "A lasting harvest," declared George Steiner. At least one other critic has claimed that what we are being offered here is the best translation of Homer since Pope's.

I mention all this by way of fair preface before finding fault with *The Husbands* (Faber, £6.99 pbk), Logue's third Homeric volume, an account of Books Three and Four of the *Iliad* (with extrapolated bits from Books Two, Five, Seven and Eleven for good measure). Like its predecessors *War Music* (1981) and *Kings* (1991), this elegant enter-

tainment is certainly readable and racy, qualities not often found in translations from the ancient Greek. Logue has also been clever to dish up his Homer in small helpings — the slimness of each of his volumes is an antidote in itself to the mistaken notion that Classics must be stodgy. What do I object to, then? Byron complained that Keats in *Endymion* made the gods talk like banal contemporaries of his own, and Logue does the same with lines like *As you and he have such a meaningful relationship*. But Logue does worse. He seems to attribute a tincture of Disney

to the divine, so that at one point he has Hera and Athena hurrying through the clouds with faces like NO ENTRY signs (his capitals), and at another he can say of Agamemnon his voice is like a cliff. These are cartoon crudities. Logue also falls into the trap of making every strophe muscular, every incident dramatic. There are no quiet bits, no gentle Mediterranean calms such as Homer is always wise enough to provide for his wine-dark verse. Worst of all, there are lines here which serve only to remind that under another name ("Count Palmiro Vicarion")

this translator once wrote a pornographic novel entitled *Last: Prepare her bath. And you, Miss Quivering, strip her*. Still, this is to criticise a lively venture from the highest standards. It would be unfair not to add that, at his burning best, Logue sparks the sort of electricity that few others have achieved in their translations of Homer.

There is a special companionable pleasure to be had from a book of verse which is not just a collection of poems but a progress of poems, a poetic autobiography. Such a

book is Pablo Neruda's *The Cappon* (Anvil Press, £8.95 pbk original). Neruda wrote all these poems as a celebration of his love for his third wife, Matilde Urrutia, publishing them anonymously in 1952 to spare his second wife's feelings.

Lyrical, sensual, full of passionate intensity, these are the love poems of a mature man, a poet sufficiently honest to recognise the philandering side of his own nature (see "Fickle

Man"), even while expressing his devotion to his new wife. Neruda ranges over Matilde's body like a geographer drunk on his own discoveries. In these simplicities he never quite loses touch with his consciousness of his mission as a poet, so that there are political overtones to his humanity. But this well-translated book could be enjoyed even by readers who have no time for Neruda's politics.

Norman Cameron published two collections of translations from the work of the French poet Arthur Rimbaud during his lifetime. These have been brought together as

Arthur Rimbaud: *A Season in Hell and Other Poems* (Anvil Press, £16.95/£8.95 pbk), and they seem to me to provide a touchstone of what poetic translation is all about. Cameron never inserts his own personality between the reader and the text. Instead, he puts all his skill as a poet at Rimbaud's service, with astonishing results.

This is another bilingual edition so that on page after page one can see the alchemy of Rimbaud's words mirrored in English gold. If there has been a finer translation of any poet this century then I do not know it. Perhaps the secret lies

in Cameron's own poetic practice: he wrote poems only when he felt compelled to do so by having that to say which could be said no other way, and he seems to have recognised and captured a similar impress of necessity in Rimbaud. These versions were made for love, and it shows.

ROBERT NYE

WEEKEND BOOKS

Penny Perriek reviews short stories by women; Nigel Hawkes observes Oliver Sacks on Mars; Marcel Berlins on the new Michael Dobbs



















**FROM STUART JONES, TENNIS CORRESPONDENT  
IN MELBOURNE**

His list of victims is undis-

She is already guaranteed to take back to California a cheque worth at least Aus \$90,000 (£43,000), which is more than half her earnings for last year. She did not have to work hard for it, either.

**Sánchez Vicario powers a two-handed return during her one-sided quarter-final victory over Sawamatsu**

Five years ago, Werdel Witmeyer also considered quitting. Ron, her husband,

the champion here, saved all but two of the 11 break points against her.

(Can) and L Davenport (US) bt L Bale (SA) and A Coetzer (SA) 4-8, 6-4, 8-1; R Leach (US) N Zvereva (Belg) bt S Melville (US) D Graham (US) 6-3, 6-4. Quarter-finals: Suk [CZ] and G Fernandez (US) bt D

(US) and L. Varmuzova (San Marino) bt M-Ra (S Kor) and K Roubanovs (GE) 4-6 6-3, 6-1; A Kurimay (Hun) and J Steck (SA) bt M Miller (GB) and A Verbitskian (Aust) 7-5, 3-6, 7-5.

**SNOW R**

## REPORTS

**FROM JOHN HOPKINS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT, IN MANILA**

To most Filipinos, however, the golf is only marginally more important than cock fighting. According to the *Manila Bulletin* newspaper, the cock-fighting season

greens, which are rock hard at present, and cart paths. It is, in short, the sort of championship golf course you see by the dozen in the US. It is a pity that more local features could



"This year I am more optimistic because I have been playing better. For me the real beginning of the season is when I go to America in March. But I have many goals

**9.30 On the Ropes:** John Humphrys talks to Albert Reynolds, the former Irish prime minister, about his fall from power

**10.00-10.30 News; in the Red (FM only):** The fourth instalment of

**7.20** **Laughter and Hope and a Sock in the Eye:** Sue Lumb looks at the life and wit of Dorothy Parker (r)

**8.00** **Analysis:** Peter Kellner asks whether our belief in a better life on earth is dying

**8.45** **Bloopers:** Jonathan Hewart

1

**Section 101**

**BY IVO TENNANT**

The Cohen collection has been split into 623 lots, which are estimated to

That was *Vanity Fair's* description in 1897 of Prince Kumar Shri Ranjitsinhji. The original drawing for their cartoon b

Crowther, Tony Lewis, Brian Rix and Richard Stilgoe were all at the preview, as was the MCC curator, Stephen Green. But the likelihood is that lesser known individuals will be bidding today. And that, after all, is exactly what Cohen would have wanted.

**RADIO 1:** FM 97.6-99.8. **RADIO**  
92.4. **RADIO 4:** 198k-hz/1515m;  
693k-hz/433m; 808k-hz/830m. **LO**  
97.3. **CAPITAL:** 1548k-hz/194m;  
**SERVICE:** MW 848k-hz/463m. **C**  
MW-1215, 1197, 1242 k-hz. **List**  
GILMAN Maxey

2: FM-88-90.2. RADIO 3: FM-90.2.  
FM-92.4-94.6. LW 198. RADIO 5:  
SDON RADIO: 1152kHz/261m; FM  
FM-95.8. GLR: FM 94.9; WORLD  
CLASSIC FM: FM-100-102. VIRGIN  
s compiled by Peter Dear and

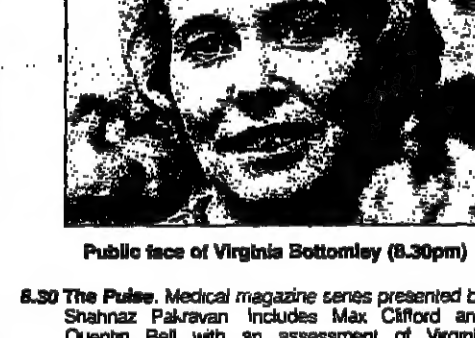
RADIO 1: FM 67.6-68.2 RADIO 2: FM-88-90.2 RADIO 3: FM-80.2-  
92.4 RADIO 4: 1584-kHz/1515m FM-82.4-84.8 LW 198 RADIO 5:  
693kHz/433m; 908kHz/2330m LONDON RADIO 1158kHz/2281m  
97.3 CAPITAL 1548kHz/194m; FM-25.5 GLR FM 54.9  
SERVICE MW 648kHz/463m CLASSIC FM: FM-100-103  
MW-1215, 1197, 1242 kHz Listings compiled by Peter Davis  
Glasgow



to separate an egg, 100.

CHANNEL 4

- 6.35 Once Upon A Time** (w) *Life, Animated* series exploring the human body (1) 18769220)  
**7.00 The Big Breakfast** (457153)  
**9.00 You Bet Your Life** (1) (5) (47046)  
**9.30 Schools** Middle English (8550133) 9.45 *The New Living Book* (8625084) **10.05 Scientific Eye** (5834955) (9481020) **10.27** *Geographical Eye* (5834955) **10.50 Your World** (2961217) **11.00 History in Action** (5115266) **11.10 The Big Bang** (1973571) **11.40 The German Invasion** (5958682)  
**12.00 House to House** (50510)  
**12.30 Sessame Street** with guest Maya Angelou (36171)  
**1.30 The Wonderful Wizard Of Oz** Animated adventures (1) (3) (18740397)  
**1.55 Islanders** (b/w) A 1939 GPO documentary about life on Britain's islands (91981531)  
**2.20 FILM: Our Very Own** (1950, b/w) starring Ann Blyth, Joan Evans, Farley Granger and Donald Cook. A sentimental family drama directed by David Miller (375751)  
**4.00 Profiles of Nature: The Great Grey Owl** North America's reclusive bird filmed during their hunting and nesting rituals (1) (404)  
**4.30 Countdown** (Telexed) (5) (568)  
**5.00 Ricki Lake** The guests are women whose partners prefer sports videos (Telexed) (3) (6747775) **6.55 Terrytoons** (849133)  
**6.00 The Cosby Show** (1) (Telexed) (3) (881)  
**6.30 Saved By The Bell: The College Years** Campus comedy. (Telexed) (133)  
**7.00 Channel 4 News** (Telexed) and weather (780155) **7.50 The Six** (731220)  
**8.00 The Number 10 Show** Herman Ouseley, chairman of the Commission for Racial Equality, expounds the policies he would introduce if he were to become Prime Minister. (Telexed) (1046)



Bottomley's style and public image (3881)

- starring Lindsey Duncan as the disgruntled and ignored wife of a war (Jonathan Coy) who takes job in a supermarket (r) (Teletext) (33956)
- 10.00 FILM: Lonely in America** (1960) starring Rani Chowdry and Adelaide Miller. A comedy about a young man from India, living in the United States who incurs the displeasure of his family when he falls in love with an American woman. Directed by Barry Alexander Brown. (Teletext) (161442)
- 11.45 Bullpen.** Comedy series about a baseball team (303775)
- 12.00am Dispatches** (r) (Teletext) (3598824)
- 1.05 Key West.** Comedy series (s) (214911)
- 2.05 FILM: Pack Up Your Troubles** (1939, b/w) starring the Fitz Brothers and Jane Withers. A re-make of Laurel and Hardy comedy about three soldiers in France during the First World War. Directed by Hal Bruce Humberstone (169718) Ends at 3.25

SATELLITE

- [illegible]



## Hick's exit leaves England in disarray

FROM ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT  
IN ADELAIDE

ONE more key player lost, one more example of unprofessional management: that was the outcome of pre-Test day here, where it was finally confirmed that Graeme Hick can take no further part in England's beleaguered tour and that Mark Ramprakash will become the sixth additional player summoned to join a party no longer able to comprehend its treatment by the fates.

The prospects of Hick playing in either of the remaining Test matches looked bleak when the results of a spinal scan were revealed. He is suffering from a herniated disc in the lower back, which is pressing upon a nerve and causing him chronic discomfort, and it was inconceivable that he would start the fourth Test this morning.

Typical of a management team inclined to dither, however, it was announced that Hick would not be discounted even from this game until his

McDermott's point ..... 38  
Ashes celebrated ..... 38

condition was reassessed, despite the call for the second opinion of John Davis, the Worcester specialist who treated Ian Botham's back five years ago. Yet, on the eve of the Test, Keith Fletcher, the team manager, issued a statement that Hick would be returning home "as soon as is convenient".

Sympathy for Hick must be paramount. He has made runs more regularly than most on this tour, and played two Test innings - 80 in Brisbane and 98 not out in Sydney - of merit and significance. He might have been on the threshold of the long-awaited breakthrough. Now, he must rest and undergo traction treatment, will not play for up to three months, and may require surgery after that.

Against this must be set the behaviour of the tour manager, Mike Smith, and of Fletcher

himself, which, not for the first time, invites ridicule. Their evasive public front on this matter has served no good purpose. Their cavalier treatment of the media is irrelevant. What matters is the impression of indecision transmitted to the cricketing public.

It was entirely forgivable that they did not react quicker in summoning a replacement player, for Hick has always recovered quickly from his back spasms until now, but telling half-truths about his condition lacked foresight and integrity.

If Michael Atherton, the captain, and Smith felt that they were achieving some psychological point over the Australians by not revealing the consequences of Hick's injury, it was a gross misjudgment of opposition conditioned to an England injury day. Australia would not have been so devious, but then the leadership of their team is frank and open, virtues those presiding over England affairs might care to consider.

Hick, who has never previously been ruled out of a game by his back, plainly faces a worrying few weeks upon his return to England. "Rest and traction are the prescribed treatments," Fletcher said. "No operation should be necessary, but he will undergo plenty of tests when he gets home."

Hick's place in the England side today went to Chris Lewis, whose recruitment from the neighbouring state was no triumph for the management, either. Lewis heard from a friend in London that he might be needed and phoned the England hotel himself before boarding a flight from Melbourne to Adelaide.

## Confident Jackson sets sights on specific barriers



Jackson, pictured yesterday, has firm targets for the summer of 1995: another world title and an improvement to his hurdles world record. Photograph: Marc Aspland

BY DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

COLIN JACKSON outlined his aims for 1995 yesterday and they do not include the first international championship of the year, the world indoor in Barcelona in March. All his efforts are being channelled into preparing for the outdoor season, in which he hopes to retain his 110 metres hurdles world title and improve his world record of 12.91sec.

Cardiff said. However, he does not expect to lower his indoor world record because he is having a short season. It embraces only four meetings, beginning with the international match against Russia in Birmingham on Saturday and ending in Karlsruhe on February 12. He would need more races, he said, before being ready for a world record.

Jackson has not lost an international championship race since the last world indoor championships, in Toronto in 1993, winning five successive gold medals. It would have been six had Mark McKoy, then of Canada, not been allowed to escape with a false start.

Everything that is worth winning, and every record worth holding, Jackson has taken, except the Olympic and world indoor titles. If he wins at the Games in Atlanta next year, a world indoor title in 1997 would be the final piece in the jigsaw.

## Lack of snow forces World Cup decision today

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF



Messner: no safety fears

TIME is running out for the Alpine skiing world championships, due to start in Sierra Nevada, Spain, on Monday. Organisers said yesterday that they were clinging to hopes that they could hold the event, but were concerned about the weather forecast of high temperatures and no snow.

"We are optimistic with a headache," Gian Franco Kasper, general secretary of the International Ski Federation (FIS), said yesterday. "We have two alternatives: to come back in March or next year."

"Looking at the long-range weather forecast, my personal opinion is that the only alternative [if the championships have to be cancelled] is to come back in 1996."

Jordiño Paez, secretary general of

the Sierra Nevada organising committee, said that the organisers were doing everything possible to ensure that the tournament went ahead, despite one of the worst droughts in Spain this century, which has deprived the region of all but artificial snow. "We are making all kinds of efforts, and we are looking at the sky every five minutes," he said.

"If possibilities exist, we will go ahead, but if we come to the objective conclusion that it is not possible, then we will cancel. If conditions are not right to hold the event, it would be a big mistake to start the championships and not be able to finish."

The final say on the fate of the tournament lies with the FIS, and will be made this afternoon after a further snow and temperature check. Paez stressed that local organisers would

not want to hold the championships if conditions were sub-standard, but said that the downhill and slalom slopes were technically ready for competition.

The downhill piste has been shortened because of a lack of snow at the top of the run. Paez said that the giant slalom piste needed more snow and the main problem lay in the approach to the pistes from the lifts.

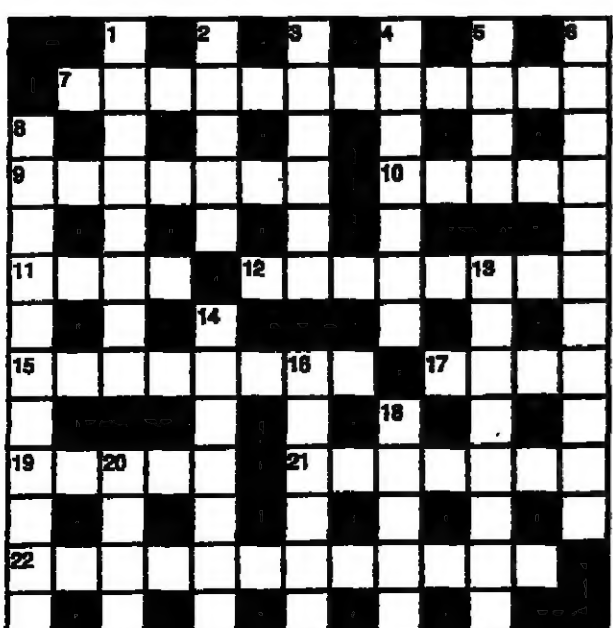
Serg Messner, an FIS safety expert, said that concerns raised by a shortage of snow on the fringes of the pistes had been solved, and he praised the Spanish for their efforts. "There are no safety problems," he said. "The organisers have created more snow than you could possibly believe."

Paez, asked if he was worried by the image of a snowless Sierra Nevada, said that the "fight and the efforts of the people are more important than the

beauty of the landscape". The world body was widely criticised for holding the 1993 world championships in Morioka, Japan, where awful weather plagued the event. But Marc Hodler, president of the FIS, said there were no regrets about having chosen Sierra Nevada, another venue absent from the traditional list of favoured resorts.

"The resort is one of the absolute best as far as snow conditions are concerned," Hodler said. "We had World Cup finals there with excellent snow. This is the first time in the last 100 years they haven't had snow."

Asked what might be done to prevent such situations arising again, Hodler said: "We are exposed to nature. Somebody has to make a big ski stadium with an 800-metre vertical drop, a big roof, and first-class refrigeration system."



EXCLUSIVE FROM TIMES BOOKS: The Times Guides: English Style and Usage (Hb) £8.99. International Finance, Japan, Nations of the World, Middle East, Good University Guide 1994-5, Single European Market £9.99 each. Peoples of Europe (Hb) £16.99. European Parliament - June 1994 (Hb) £26. NEW The Times Guide to the New British States £17.99. The Times Maps: The World (Wall Map laminated) 62"x40" £18.99, (folded) 48"x30" £5.99. Miscellaneous: The Times Night Sky 1995 £4.50, The Times 1000 1995 (Hb) £33. The Times Concise Atlas of the Bible (Hb) £13.99 (reduced from £15.99). The Sunday Times Book of Answers £4.50, Book of Brainbusters £5.49. Prices include P&P (UK). Send cheques with order payable to Alton Ltd 31 Manor Lane, London, SE13 5QW. Return del. Tel. 0181 852 4575 (24hrs) No credit cards.

### TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

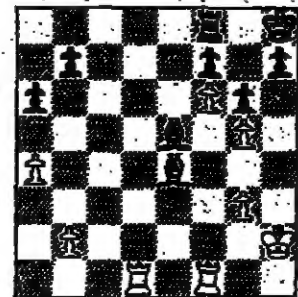
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- |   |                                 |
|---|---------------------------------|
| ACROSS                                    | DOWN                            |
| 7 Lavish light entertainment (12)         | 1 Very food of one's wife (8)   |
| 9 Indict; call to account (7)             | 2 Last Supper cup (5)           |
| 10 Argentinian dance (5)                  | 3 Show clearly (6)              |
| 11 Basis: rummage (4)                     | 4 Perturb, shake (7)            |
| 12 Plane figure: US military HQ (8)       | 5 Shorty (4)                    |
| 15 Connoisseur of beauty (8)              | 6 Psychological assault (3,2,6) |
| 17 Fibber (4)                             | 8 Terrifying (4-7)              |
| 19 Small mammal: peevish woman (5)        | 13 Shenanigans (6-2)            |
| 21 Go back on one's word (7)              | 14 Flout (4,3)                  |
| 22 Formal information (given to one) (12) | 16 Three times (6)              |
|   | 18 Concord (5)                  |
|   | 20 Unthinking repetition (4)    |

SOLUTION TO NO 378  
ACROSS: 1 Eschew 5 Pickle 8 Burn 9 Excavate 10 Adj-just 12 Lush 15 Bit of all right 16 Weep 17 Votary 19 Falser- to 21 Kick 22 Hold-up 23 Lonely  
DOWN: 2 Sound bite 3 Hon 4 Wheatcar 5 Puck 6 Civil list 7 Lot 11 Unopposed 13 Spherical 14 Olive oil 18 Stop 20 Ado 21 Ken

By Raymond Keene

This position is from the game Nunn - Portisch, Brussels 1986. Here White has to avoid a trap. He has two possible moves to win material: 1 Rf6 and 1 Rde1, only one of which works. Which one, and why?



Solution, page 39  
Raymond Keene, page 7

By Philip Howard

QUERIMONY  
a. Money left in trust  
b. A complaint  
c. A old kitchen herb

SUG(G)ILATE  
a. To beat black and blue  
b. To hint  
c. A substitute consul

JACTATION  
a. Fishing bait  
b. Boasting  
c. An aerobic exercise

GRACILE  
a. Easily pleased  
b. Slim  
c. Bad-tempered

Answers on page 39

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